

Collector. (4) Ample provision was made for enabling the Collector to act summarily in cases of emergency.

In the course of eight years defects came to light in the working of Act VI of 1873, and suggestions were made to facilitate its future administration. Under this Act certain powers for altering the course of embankments, removing embankments, and starting new works were vested in the Collector ; but it was found that the questions involved in their exercise were so important, and so often affected large tracts of country, that it was not deemed safe to leave them in the hands of Collectors. The Board were therefore obliged to issue instructions prohibiting the exercise of these powers without their previous approval. Again, the procedure for recovery of the expenses incurred on works of this kind, which was prescribed by Act VI of 1873, required that notices should be served at every step on every petty landholder, and was so elaborate and intricate that it was declared to be unworkable. To remedy these defects, Act II of 1882 was passed, which left the substantive law as it stood and made amendments in details in order to facilitate the working of the law.

Amongst other things, this Act specifically empowered the Collector not only to take charge of existing embankments and water-courses, but also to enforce the construction of any new embankments and water-courses which appeared to be required for the improvement of the public health or for the protection of any village or cultivable land. General power was taken to prevent the unauthorized construction of, or addition to, an embankment in a notified area (sections 6 and 76), whether it might affect an existing public embankment or not. It was at the same time provided that, while the Collector of the district has authority to initiate proceedings under the Act, action shall not be taken, except when there is urgent need, till the matter has been considered by the Board of Revenue and by Government. The Act also empowered (section 43) the Lieutenant-Governor to remove any embankment from Schedule D, when no longer required in the public interest, but this power was to be exercised only after enquiry made by the Collector, as far as possible, in accordance with Part II of the Act. Another addition of much practical value was that (sections 63 to 67) which provided for the estimation of the probable cost of upkeep of an embankment or water-course for a series of years and for the formation of a contract between Government and the persons responsible for the upkeep, by which Government undertakes the work of maintenance for a fixed annual sum. This greatly

simplifies the procedure in apportioning the charges to the estates concerned.

Descrip-  
tion of  
embank-  
ments

Regarding the different embankments of Midnapore, Mr. W. A. Inglis, C.S.I., writes in *The Canals and Flood Banks of Bengal* (1909):—"In the southern and eastern portions of this district, extending from the Rūpnārāyan river to the Subarnarekhā river, there is an extremely complicated system of embankments, or rather, for the greater part, there is no system, and it will be more correct to say that there is a maze of embankments. There are embankments which endeavour, with little or no success, to give protection from the flood caused by the upland waters of the Dwarakeswar, the Silai and the Kasai, and there are embankments which do so, with more success, from the flood of the Subarnarekhā river. There are embankments on the face of the estuary of the Hooghly which are of much value in keeping out the salt water inundation due to high tides and to storm-waves. There are, again, embankments which exclude tidal water from low lands away from the sea face or main estuary. These are credited, and probably justly, with having caused much injury to the *regime* of the channels on the margin of which they stand, and they are a doubtful benefit to the country. There are a number of circuit embankments, notably the Chitua and the Argoal circuits, which are instances of embanking at its very worst. On the other hand, the sea-dyke in South Hijili is a very fine work and an instance of embanking well applied."

For administrative purposes the embankments of the district are of two classes, viz., (1) those which are the property of Government and of which the cost of maintenance is a charge against Provincial revenues, and (2) those which are the property of persons interested in the land protected and which are maintained by Government at their expense. The embankments of the first class, which are enumerated in Schedule D of Act VI (B.C.) of 1873, include embankments of which the maintenance is incumbent on Government under the provisions of the Permanent Settlement, those of the Burdwan Rāj estate which were taken over in 1804, and some additional lengths which have at various times been added to the schedule under the provisions of section 43 of Act II (B.C.) of 1882. The embankments of the first class had an aggregate length of 228 miles in 1907-08, and there were 26 embankments of the second class with a total length of 236 miles. The latter may be divided into two classes, viz., (1) those of which the cost of maintenance is recovered by the payment of a fixed annual charge under a contract extending over a term of years, and

(2) those of which the cost of maintenance is recovered from the proprietors of the land benefited by an annual apportionment of the actual expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department. Seven embankments were maintained under the latter, and nineteen, which are known as *takāri* embankments, under the former system in 1907-08. The last contract in respect of eighteen of these embankments was fixed at Rs. 49,761 per annum for fifteen years from 1st April 1904, and at Rs. 994 for the Jokai embankment.

For practical purposes the embankments may be divided into four groups as follows :—

(1) The embankments falling within the Burdwan zamindāri on the banks of the Silai and Rūpnārāyan rivers. Except for a short distance at the southern end, to which salt water reaches, their object is to keep out sandy fresh water inundations. The cost of maintenance is borne by Government in consequence of an arrangement made a century ago, by which the obligation of maintaining embankments over almost the whole of Western Bengal is still determined. At first, an allowance of Rs. 60,001 was made to the Rājā of Burdwan, *i.e.*, an abatement of that amount was made in his *sadar jama* for the express purpose of enabling him to keep up these embankments. He failed, however, to keep them in efficient repair, and officers of Government had to make good the deficiencies. The result was that by 1804 there was a heavy claim against the Rājā to meet the cost of these repairs. After some delay and refusals to pay, the Rājā petitioned the Embankment Committee to take over the Rs. 60,001 and carry out the repairs for him. This was finally allowed by Government, the Rājā agreeing to pay Rs. 53,742 in addition to his ordinary revenue. The difference between the sum of Rs. 60,001 and Rs. 53,742 is due to a portion of the zamindārī having been sold in the *interim*.

(2) The embankments along the Kāsai, the object of which is to keep the fresh water floods of the Kāsai from devastating the low country through which it flows. On the right bank, as the Haldi is approached, the Kāsai receives the drainage of a large tract of country south-east of Midnapore, and here the embankments are not continuous but are broken up into a series of circuit embankments to prevent the low country from being swamped by the accumulated drainage.

(3) The embankments on the Kālīghai. These also are intended to keep out fresh water and are maintained at the expense of the zamindārs where the estates are permanently settled, and of the Government where they are temporarily

settled; the latter are chiefly in *pargana* Patāspur, which at the time of the Permanent Settlement was under the Marāthās.

(4) The embankments on the estuary of the Hooghly, including the great sea-dyke, which are designed to keep out salt water. These are by far the most important of all the Midnapore embankments: indeed, they are probably the most important embankments in the whole of the Province. These embankments may be dealt with in three parts, viz., (1) the part between the Subarnarekha river and the Rasūlpur called formerly South Hijili, (2) the part between the Rasūlpur and the Haldi, or North Hijili, and (3) the part between the Haldi and the Rūpnārāyan, i.e., the Doro Dumnān *pargana*. In the first part there is the sea-dyke, which is intended to be proof against storm-waves. In the second and third parts the embankments give protection against high tides, but are liable to be overtopped by storm-waves.

The sea-dyke.

The principal embankment is the great sea-dyke, which is designed to keep out not merely a high tidal wave but storm-waves. Such waves accompany the cyclones which form periodically in the Bay of Bengal, and which almost invariably break upon the coast somewhere along the reach of 50 miles separating Balasore from the mouth of the Hooghly. The storm-wave, if it once effects an entry, sweeps over the flat country separating the sea from the great sand ridge some 4 to 8 miles inland, which depends on the sea-dyke for its protection. This is a magnificent work, 41 miles long, and in places 25 feet high and 150 feet in breadth at its base. The dyke commences on the west from the range of sand hills along the coast line near Birkul; further west these hills, reaching down to the sea, constitute a natural barrier. Thence it follows a tortuous alignment along the sea coast and up the inlets—this alignment is a legacy bequeathed to the British by the former rulers of the country—as far as the Rasūlpur river, where the Hooghly may be said to commence.

Other embankments.

Other embankments, which may be specially mentioned, are as follows. The right bank of the Hooghly is embanked, from the Rasūlpur river, by the Khejri (Kedgerree) and Doro Dumnān embankments, 20 and 95 miles long, respectively. The west bank of the Rūpnārāyan is embanked from its junction with the Hooghly as far north as Ghātāl; and there are also embankments on both sides of the Haldi and Rasūlpur. Near the embouchure of the Rasūlpur a *khāl*, called the Kunjapur Khāl, runs into the Hooghly, and with the Hooghly and Rasūlpur forms an island on which stand Khejri (Kedgerree) and the Kaukhāli (Cowoolly) lighthouse. This island, which has an area of about 20 square



miles, is protected by a circuit embankment. In the extreme south-west of the district lies the Jokai embankment, which was constructed with the object of excluding the flood waters of the Subarnarekhā from a large plain to the west of Contai, which they would otherwise inundate.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES.

## RENTS.

THE rates of rent current in different parts of the district vary considerably, and in many parts it is difficult to ascertain the actual rent paid by the cultivators. In some estates there are no written leases, and the amounts entered in the ryots' rent receipts often represent only a portion of the payments actually made. When written leases are granted, it is a general practice for the landlord, on granting or renewing the lease, to take a considerable premium, or *salāmi*, in cash and to fix a low rate of rent. As the *salāmi* is usually not entered in the lease (to avoid stamp duty), the total actual payments for the land leased cannot be ascertained without elaborate enquiries; but it is reported that the *salāmi* varies from Rs. 30 to Rs. 75 and more an acre. Further, since the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act, it has become a practice of the landlord to exact from the purchaser of occupancy rights a fee equal to 25 per cent. of the purchase-money before he will recognize the purchaser; and in the case of succession by inheritance and subdivision of holdings among relatives, he generally exacts from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a *bigha* as his fee for recognition. Such payments have been held to be anticipated enhancements of rent. *Atwabs*, or irregular exactions, are also often levied from ryots except in the area irrigated from the canal, where little beyond the rent is paid, except *tahrir* or the *gumdashta's* collection fee of one pice in the rupee, and that not always. In some *parganas* again, it is the custom for ryots to obtain remissions from their landlords for *shuka*, i.e., loss by drought, and *hājā*, i.e., loss by inundation. The Courts have held that this is a custom enforceable as a right when there is a total loss, but that, when, as a previous practice, landlords have granted partial remissions for partial loss, it is of grace only. Disputes about *shuka* and *hājā* are a source of friction between landlords and tenants in various parts of the district, and in some places the parties execute agreements by which, for a reduced rent, the ryots agree to take all risk.

Rates vary from *pargana* to *pargana*, and also in the same *pargana*, according to the quality of the soil, the position of the land, etc.; and conditions in this large district are so different that it is impossible to give averages that will be of much value. There is a further difficulty in that the whole district has not come under settlement, and hence reliable statistics are not available. Land on which *aman*, or winter, rice is grown usually fetches about 50 per cent. more than that used for *aus*, or early, rice, while sugarcane land is about twice as valuable as the best rice land. The rent of land growing pulses is about the same as that paid for *aus* land, while land suitable for oil-seeds is about half as valuable.

A settlement of eighteen temporarily-settled estates in *pargana* Pataspur in the Contai subdivision was carried out between 1892 and 1898, in the course of which rents were settled over an area of 39½ square miles for fifteen years with effect from 1897. Here the lands are almost entirely low lands on which winter rice is the only crop grown. There are fifteen or sixteen rates of rent often differing from each other by a few pies, but the average incidence of rent paid by occupancy ryots for settled cultivated lands is Rs 3-4-1 per acre. The average area held by each ryot is about 1½ acres. Settlement operations are now (1909) in progress in fifty-six Government estates, ten temporarily-settled estates with an area of 600 square miles, and in a number of zamindari estates with an aggregate area of 468 square miles. In the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates the rent settlement orders involve an enhancement of three annas in the rupee except on homestead and unprotected lands. This enhancement is based on the rise of prices that has occurred since rents were last fixed. It would have been easy to prove that on this ground an enhancement of eight annas or more was justifiable, but Government has been content to take three annas in the rupee and to guarantee that the major portion of the enhancement shall be devoted to improving the drainage channels and embankments of the estate.

A portion of the area under cultivation is held under a system of produce rents, of which there are two common forms called *sanya* and *bhāg jot*. The former means that the actual cultivator, the *bhāgchāsi*, pays the man from whom he holds the land a fixed amount of grain as rent, whatever may be the outturn; the latter that the cultivator makes over to the lessor a certain proportion, generally half, of the produce as rental; the cultivator often supplies the seed and is alone recognised by the landlord.

## WAGES.

The following table shows the daily wages paid for different classes of labour in 1895, 1900, 1905, and 1909 :—

CLASS OF LABOUR.		1895.	1900.	1905.	1909.
		As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.
Common mason	...	3 4½	5 1½	6 0	8 0
Superior do	..	7 0	7 0	9 0	12 0
Common carpenter	.	4 9	5 9	5 9	6 6
Superior do.	...	6 4½	8 6	9 0	10 6
Common blacksmith	.	5 3½	4 7½	5 9	8 0
Superior do.	..	9 3	9 1½	8 3	12 0
Male adult cooly	.	3 0½	3 7½	4 1½	5 6
Female do.	...	1 10	2 4½	2 9	3 6

Agricultural labourers usually receive one meal (*jaldan*) a day in part payment, and during the busy agricultural seasons get higher wages than at other times, *e g*, for ploughing land, sowing or transplanting rice, or harvesting the produce. The poorer cultivators also often work as labourers on the *badli* system, *i e*, they exchange labour without receiving any wages. Blacksmiths receive payments in grain at harvest time for the repair of the villagers' agricultural implements throughout the year. The price of unskilled labour has risen considerably since the advent of the railway.

## Supply of labour.

The following remarks on the supply of labour in Midnapore are quoted from Mr. Foley's *Report on Labour in Bengal* (1906): "There is a certain amount of emigration from Contai and Tamlük to the Sundarbans, but the land is good and the people are well off. Ghátál is subject to inundation, and therefore is not so prosperous; but it contains good rice land, and labour is probably not obtainable. There is a great demand for labour in the Bengal-Nágpur workshops at Kharagpur, so this neighbourhood is also to be excluded. There remains the rest of the Sadar subdivision, where there is much jungle and where the land is poor. The Santáls, who form the second most numerous caste in the district, and are to be found in this part, migrate in some numbers every year in November for earth-work, crop-cutting, etc., to the neighbouring districts to the east, returning in time for their cultivation. They refuse to go to Calcutta, as they are afraid of disease. None of them go to the coal-fields, and I have heard of no efforts being made to induce them to go, though there is recruitment in the district for the tea-gardens. All this part of the district seems therefore to contain labour which ought naturally to go to the coal mines. The European zamindárs in

the north would probably object to emigration, as they need the Santál labour for jungle-clearing and cultivation; but, excluding this part and also the neighbourhood of Kharagpur, the area left is still large. I have heard of labour for the docks being obtained from the district, but I was unable to ascertain from what part. I can only recommend Midnapore as a recruiting ground for the coal-fields."

The following table shows the average prices in seers per rupee of common articles of food during the last four years:—

ARTICLES OF FOOD.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	s. ch.	s. ch.	s. ch.	s. ch.
Common rice ... ..	13 8	9 2	7 12	8 15
Wheat ... ..	9 1	9 14	8 0	...
Gram ... ..	11 13	10 6	8 14	7 12
Salt ... ..	15 1	15 11	18 12	20 0

The contrast between these figures and those for earlier years is remarkable. In 1871, for instance, the price of common rice was 25 seers per rupee, and in the ten years ending in 1903 it varied from 18½ seers to less than 12 seers, excluding the famine year of 1897 when it fell to 10½ seers. After 1897 till the end of 1903 the average price was 13½ seers, but as shown in the table it has since risen even above the famine rate of 1897. There has been a similar rise in the price of other articles of food except salt, of which the price has fallen owing to the reduction of the duty. These variations in prices are common to other districts in Bengal and are due to economic conditions which have affected not only Midnapore but the whole of the Province.

## CHAPTER IX.

## MINES, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE

## MINES.

THE district contains no mines in the proper sense of the word, but laterite is quarried on a fairly extensive scale. It is of the kind called rock laterite, which is close grained, hard and durable, and is generally met with at a depth varying from 2 to 4 feet below the surface. Its economic value will be apparent from the account of the *Geology of Bankura, Midnapore, and Orissa* published in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. I. "The rock most generally employed for building purposes in these districts is laterite. This is largely used in the construction of the walls of houses, and in buildings also of greater pretensions. Few rocks present greater advantages from its peculiar character; it is easy to cut and shape when first dug, and it becomes hard and tough after exposure to the air, while it seems to be very little acted on by the weather. Indeed, in many of the sculptured stones of some of the oldest buildings, temples, etc., in the district, the chisel marks are as fresh and sharp as when first built. It is, perhaps, not so strong, nor so capable of resisting great pressure or bearing great weights, as some of the sandstones or the more compact kinds of gneiss, but it certainly possesses amply sufficient strength for all ordinary purposes. It is largely used at the present time, but has also been employed from the earliest period from which the temples and buildings of the country date. And the elaborate specimens of carving and ornament, which some of these present, show that the nodular structure and irregular surface of the laterite does not prevent its effective use for the purposes of ordinary ornamentation, as mouldings, etc. Another advantage it possesses over other rocks is the facility of transport, it being generally found in the low grounds, and often at no great distance from some of the many streams which traverse the vicinity. Slabs from 4 to 5 feet long are easily procurable of this rock. They are quarried in a rude but effective way; a groove is cut with a rudely pointed pick round the slab; another is made underneath, and then a few wedges driven in split off

the block. The more loose and gravelly forms of the laterite are universally used for road-metal, for which purpose they are admirably adapted."

Limestone is also quarried, and magnesian potstones are worked. The chloritic and serpentinous beds found in the gneiss are said to yield a tough compact material, which is, however, soft and easy to work. The most general use of this rock is for the manufacture of plates, bowls, basins, etc. The tools employed in the manufacture of the latter are of the rudest kind. A short round bar of iron pointed at one end, and a wooden mallet suffice to procure from the rock a piece large enough for a plate or bowl. This is rudely cut into the intended form by the quarryman on the spot, and the materials are then brought down from the quarries or holes on the hillside, and finished by different workmen in the villages below. This is done partly by hand with finer tools, partly on a simple lathe. Alluvial gold has been found in minute quantities in the river sands. Iron exists in the north, and salt is plentiful in the south and east of the district.

There is an amusing record of a supposed discovery of a coal mine in the grounds of the Central Jail at Midnapore. During the sinking of a boring for an artesian well in the year 1869, a European convict who was placed in charge of the work, first as a prisoner and afterwards, when his time had expired, as a free man, expressed a confident opinion that coal would be struck if the boring were carried on beyond the depth of 118 feet, where a second water-bearing stratum had been found. Proof of the correctness of these predictions was soon forthcoming, for at 121 feet it was announced that a coal seam had been reached, and at a depth of 130 feet it was believed that the seam still continued. Samples of the coal on being analysed gave excellent results, and much interest was excited by what appeared to be an important and valuable discovery. Orders were issued to test the extent and dip of the seam by additional borings, and new boring tools were ordered by telegram from England. These were put down, and operations were continued with varying and most unexpected results, which it is needless to detail. The operations, which were at first conducted independently of the Superintendent of the Geological Survey, were subsequently carried on in communication with him. There being no *a priori* argument against the possibility of coal being found under the alluvium and laterite of Midnapore, the Executive Engineer, who initiated the operations, was advised as to the best method of testing the matter thoroughly. Eventually, on the bore



holes being subjected to a careful watch, the coal ceased to appear, and shortly afterwards, in December 1870, the ex-convict absconded. On his house being searched, prepared coal was found, as well as large lumps, and it was completely established that all the coal which had been brought up by the boring tools had been first put down, and that twelve months of labour and not a little expense had been caused by his cunning and deception. The subsequent proof, to the satisfaction of the authorities, that there never had been a coal seam was not obtained without a further expenditure of time.\*

#### MANUFACTURES.

##### Railway workshops.

Among the industrial concerns of Midnapore first place must be given to the Bengal-Nágpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur. These workshops were opened in 1904 and are equipped with machinery of the most modern type, electrically driven, for the construction and repair of locomotives and rolling-stock. The works cover an area of 77 acres (of which 9 acres are roofed in), and contain an electric power-house, in which is generated the current for working the machines as well as for lights and fans in the bungalows of the staff. The average daily number of operatives employed in 1908 was 5,975. As there were no skilled mechanics available locally when the works were first started, it was found necessary to import all the skilled labour, and to pay high wages to attract it. Consequently, there is a curious miscellany to be found in the works of men from the Punjab, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Bengal and Madras.

##### Silk-weaving.

Silk-weaving was formerly an important industry in Midnapore, but it has been declining for some years, so much so that a silk factory, owned by Messrs. Louis, Payen & Co. of Lyons, at Guruli in the Dáspur thána had to be closed a few years ago. There were also till recently factories at Maheshpur in the same thána, and at Garbpartábpur, Rámohandrapur and Maharájpur in the Ghátál thána. Mulberry cocoon-rearing is carried on in the Ghátál and Tamlük subdivisions, mostly in the Ghátál, Dáspur and Garbheta thánas; the cocoons are used locally and are also exported, especially to the Bānkurā district. Four varieties of cocoons are reared, viz., (1) *nistari* or *madrāsi*, (2) *chota-palu* or *deshi*, (3) *bara-palu* and (4) *china-palu*, which are reared chiefly in the Tamlük subdivision. The *bara-palu* is an annual variety, reared in the spring (February and March), which produces indifferently white, greenish, salmon-coloured and bright yellow cocoons. What is called *dhakā* (white) silk is made out of thread spun from white *bara-palu* cocoons. There

\* Economic Geology of India (1881), pp. 76, 77.

is another class of polyvoltine *dhak* cocoons in Midnapore, called *bulu* (perhaps a corruption of 'blue'), the colour of which is somewhat greenish and not silvery white like *bara-palu* silk. These *bulu* cocoons were originally selected out of *nistari* and *china* varieties, among which light-coloured cocoons often occur.

For quantity or proportion of silk, the *chota-palu* ranks next to the *bara-palu*, though the fibre of *nistari* is softer and finer. The latter supplies the principal crop of the year, but the cocoons produce a smaller proportion of silk. Picked *bara-palu* cocoons may yield as much as 14 per cent. of silk, but the average actually obtained in Midnapore, where these cocoons are more largely reared than anywhere else in Bengal, is much smaller, viz., about 7 per cent. The *chota-palu*, *nistari* and *china* cocoons are small, and they yield much smaller proportions of silk than in the northern districts. The yield of silk obtained from them are:—*chota-palu*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; *nistari*, 5 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and *china*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

The principal centre of silk-weaving is Chandrakona and its neighbourhood, the looms of which are supplied by the products of native reeling from all parts of Midnapore and even from parts of Howrah and Hooghly. Various kinds of silk cloth are also manufactured at Ghatál and Dáspur and exported to Calcutta and other places. The industry is decadent, for the fabrics have not the same reputation as those of Murshidábád, though silk cloths of almost as good a quality may be obtained at a cheaper rate.\* As much as 20,000 lbs. of raw silk is turned out yearly, and in 1907-08 the value of the silk fabrics or pieces woven in the district was reported to be Rs. 1,31,120.

Tusser cocoons are found in the jungles of Gogoi, Nunga, Silda and Rámgaon and are also imported from Mayúrbhanj and Singhbhūm. Thence they find their way to the villages of Anandapur in thāna Keshpur and Kesiári in thāna Nārāyangarh. These villages are inhabited by weavers, who prepare various sorts of *dhotis*, *saris*, and *thāns*, which they dispose of locally and also send to Calcutta for sale. At one time the weavers of Anandapur and Kesiári made a prosperous livelihood by preparing tusser cloth, but during the last twenty years the industry has been on the decline owing to the importation of machine-made European silk cloths of all sorts. The best weavers now complain that they can hardly make Rs. 10 a month

\* N. G. Mukharji, *Monograph on the Silk Fabrics of Bengal*, pp. 8, 8-10, 31, 44.

for their livelihood. Besides weaving plain tusser, the weavers dye the cloths red, yellow, green and purple. They produce two special kinds of coloured cloths, viz., (1) *mayurkanth*, in which red tusser silk is used for the warp and green for the weft, and (2) *pīlambari*, which is prepared by using red silk for the warp and yellow for the weft.

Cotton  
and wool  
weaving.

Cotton cloth is manufactured on country looms in most villages, but the industry has long been on the decline owing to the imports of cheaper machine-made cloths. In the last few years, however, the *sicaketh* movement has created an increased demand for country-made cloths, and this has given an impetus to the industry. The Ghatal subdivision is the chief centre of manufacture. At Chandrakonā and Rādhānagar, *dhotis*, *sāris* and *urānis* of good quality are manufactured and exported in considerable quantities every week to the Howrah mart. Various kinds of striped cloths are also manufactured for coats and shirts. Blankets are woven by some Garoris, who have migrated from the United Provinces and formed some small colonies in Midnapore.

Mat-  
making.

Mat-making is carried on extensively in the south of the district, especially near Sābang, whence comes the Cyprus matting of Calcutta, which is used for matting floors. The industry in the Sābang and Pānskura thānas gives employment to about 1,000 workers, and their products are said to fetch Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 on each *hāt* day at each of the four recognized local markets. Of late years there have been increased exports, but the profits have not increased correspondingly on account of the rise in the price of jute string and *mandari* reeds. The industry is a flourishing one, for the workers have a steady market close to their own homes, and there are four leading dealers who export goods to Postā-bazar in Calcutta. The best mats are said to be made at Raghunāthbāri, but excellent matting is also made at Kāsijorā and Nārājol. The number of mats manufactured in 1907-08 was 448,300.

Brass and  
bell-metal.

The manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils, such as cups, plates, and cooking pots, is carried on at Ghatal, Kharār, Midnapore, Chandrakonā and Rāmjibanpur. At the two places first named the industry is said to be more highly organized than in any other part of the Province. The masters there are enterprising and wealthy; they obtain the material in economically large quantities, e.g., tin from the Straits Settlements, copper from Japan, etc.; they distribute the labour and pay the piece-worker; and they have a steady demand from Bara Bazar

in Calcutta. Some have more than 100 men in their factories, and it is said that out of a population of 9,000 at Kharār 4,000 are metal workers. "The whole village resounds with the beat of the hammer on the bell-metal."\*

Molasses are manufactured to a considerable extent, the outturn in 1907-08 being 431,060 maunds (besides 3,500 maunds of sugar-candy) as compared with 5,10,773 maunds in 1906-07. Earthen pots are manufactured on a large scale in the Ghātal subdivision for the Calcutta market; the potters are well off and their earnings are considerable. In Tamlūk some attempts are being made to turn out galvanized iron buckets and tin trunks, but the outturn is as yet small. Other industries.

Formerly the manufacture of indigo was an important industry, but it has almost entirely ceased since Messrs R. Watson & Co. closed their factories in 1898, owing to the low prices caused by the competition of synthetic dye. This company had been concerned with silk and indigo manufacture in this district for nearly a century. After closing the factories, they devoted themselves to developing their landed property, but a few years ago sold their properties, which were acquired by the Midnapore Zamindāri Company. EXTINCT INDUSTRY.  
Indigo manufacture.

The manufacture of salt was until nearly half a century ago a Government monopoly. Both under Muhammadan and English rule large areas in Hijili were kept under direct management by Government so as to afford fuel and facilities for manufacture of salt. The *jalpai* or salt lands were those portions which being exposed to the overflowing of tides were strongly impregnated with saline particles, and were subdivided into *khālārī*s or working places. Mr. Grant's Report on the Revenue of Bengal, dated April 1786,† states that each *khālārī*, on an average, yielded 233 maunds of salt, requiring the labour of seven *malangis*, or salt manufacturers, who by an easy process of filtration, and by boiling the brine with firewood collected from the neighbouring jungles, completed their operations between November and June before the setting in of the rains. The savings from these six months' wages enabled the salt-workers to retire to their homes for the remainder of the season to cultivate their arable (*madhuri*) lands, which they held either rent-free, or under favourable terms, under the denomination of *chākran* or service lands. Salt manufacture.

\* J. G. Cumming, *Review of the Industrial Position and Prospects in Bengal in 1908*, Part II, p. 24.

† Fifth Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Affairs of the East India Company (London, 1812. Madras reprint, 1884).

The number of *khaldaris* in Midnapore under the Muhammadan rule was estimated about four thousand; and the Crown rent yielded a revenue of about Rs. 43,560. The nominal cost price of the salt was Rs. 69 for every hundred maunds, and the difference between this price and the prime cost fell into the hands of ministers, favourite servants or merchants, who transported the salt to distant markets on their own account, and made large profits by means of this authorized but oppressive monopoly. The principal monopolist had the title of Fakhar-ul-tujjar (pride of merchants) or Mālik-ul-tujjar (king of merchant-). The salt was sold to the people at an average price of Rs. 2 a maund during the first half of the seventeenth century. After the British power was established in Bengal, the greater share of this lucrative trade fell into the hands of the English; and Mr J. Grant, in his Report of 1786, estimated the quantity of salt annually manufactured in Hijuli at 850,000 maunds.

In the year 1761 the East India Company established a Salt Department, and deprived the zamīndārs of the right to manufacture salt on their estates. In return for the loss of profits, the zamīndārs received a certain fixed allowance (*mālikāna*) and a further allowance (*mushākhārā*) upon condition of their rendering aid in the manufacture of salt. They also obtained a grant of *khaldari* rents for the lands of which they were dispossessed when Government took upon itself the monopoly of salt manufacture. This monopoly continued in the hands of Government till about 1861, when the State relinquished the manufacture, leaving it to private parties, subject to the payment of a salt duty. The manufacture by private persons soon, however, declined owing to the competition of Liverpool salt brought out at low rates, which drove the native manufacture out of the market.

#### TRADE.

The principal article of trade is rice, which is exported mainly to Calcutta. The other exports are sugar and molasses, jute, linseed, gram, pulses, charcoal, brass and bell-metal ware, timber, hides, mats, silk and cotton cloths, tussar silk, pottery and vegetables. The chief imports are cotton goods, coal and coke, kerosine oil, gunny, salt, tobacco, potatoes, enamelled ware, nails, etc. The principal trading marts are Midnapore, Ghātāl, Tamīlūk, Kukrahāti, Pānskura, Chandrakona, Bālighai, Kesiāri, Garhbeta and Nāwādā.

#### Trade centres.

The commerce of the district is chiefly carried on by means of permanent markets, such as those mentioned, but a considerable local trade also takes place at fairs and religious gatherings. The principal of these fairs and gatherings are held

at (1) Tulsichaurā, on the bank of the Kaliāghai river, in honour of a celebrated spiritual preceptor named Ukulānand Goswāmi; (2) at Mahishādal in the Tamulūk subdivision on the occasion of the Rath festival of Jagannath in the month of June; (3) at Egrā in the Contai subdivision in February or March, in honour of Sambhunāth or Siva, which lasts for three days; (4) at Andhiri, in the months of November or December, in honour of Gangānand Rai, an image of Siva; (5) at Jhāripur, in honour of Sambhunāth or Siva, which lasts for eight days, in the month of April; (6) at Kutāpur, in honour of the goddess Brahmanī, in April or May, which also lasts for eight days; (7) at Gopiballābhpur on the river Subarnarekhā. The fair last mentioned is held in honour of Chaitanya, an image of whom is here installed. A wealthy rājā of the district made a grant of considerable landed property for the upkeep of the worship, and a large establishment of priests is maintained for the performance of the ceremonies. Besides these fairs, three or four religious trading gatherings take place every year in the Bāgri *pargana*, and are frequented by five or six thousand people who come to worship an image of Krishna.

## CHAPTER X.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

THE district is well provided with means of communication. The tidal rivers, such as the Hooghly, Rūpnārāyan, Haldi, and Rasūlpur, afford a natural and easy means of communication with Calcutta from the east and south. The Hijili and Orissa Coast Canals in the Contai and Tamlūk subdivisions, and the Midnapore High Level Canal in the Sadar and Tamlūk subdivisions, are connected with these rivers and are still used considerably for the rice export trade. Four branches of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway radiate to the north, east, south and west from Kharagpur, traversing about 150 miles of country within the district. There is also a network of roads, but, in spite of this, much of the traffic in the interior is carried on by means of pack-bullocks.

**RAILWAYS.** The main line of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway from Howrah to Nāgpur crosses the district from east to west. From Kharagpur the East Coast section branches off to the south to Madras, and the line to Gomoh branches off to the north through Bānkurā and the Jherria coal-fields. Through communication with Calcutta was established in 1901, and the line to the north was opened in 1903. The chief centre of traffic is Kharagpur, which is the head-quarters of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon Departments of the Railway.

The following is a list of the stations in the district with their distance from Calcutta :—

MAIN LINE.			EAST COAST LINE.		
Station.		Miles.	Station.		Miles.
Kola Ghat	...	34	Kharagpur	...	72
Machida	...	36	Benapur	...	79
Bhogpur	...	40	Nārāyangarh	...	86
Panskura	...	44	Contai Road	...	94
Haur	...	50	Nekurseni	...	99
Balichak	...	56	Dantan	...	104



MAIN LINE.		GOMOH LINE.	
Station.	Miles.	Station.	Miles.
Madpur ..	63	Kharagpur ...	72
Jakpur ...	67	Gokulpur ...	76
Kharagpur ...	72	Midnapore ...	80
Kalaikunda ...	77	Godapiasāl ...	88
Sardiha ...	86	Sālbani ...	94
Jhargrām ...	95	Chaudrakonā Road ...	101
Gidni ...	105	Garhbeta ...	111
		Paardoba ...	117

The most important railway project affecting this district that has been put forward in recent years is the proposal to construct a railway from Pānskura to Luff Point on the Hooghly, and to establish a coal port at the latter place. The question of providing facilities for the shipment of coal on the right bank of the river Hooghly below the James and Mary Sands was raised in 1897 by a Calcutta firm, which proposed to build a dock at Geonkhali. The rapid expansion of the coal trade led to a revival of the scheme in 1900, when the Agent of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway suggested the establishment of an export coal depôt at Luff Point, connected by a line of railway with the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway at Pānskura station (25 miles). This scheme was considered by a Commission specially appointed by the Government of India. The findings of the Commission were briefly that—(1) a coal depôt at Luff Point would be of little use to the industry as a whole, and it was not desirable to establish one there at present; (2) it would be practicable to establish a coal depôt if required, but it would probably be costly; (3) if established, it should be in the hands of the Port Commissioners at Calcutta.

There are two Provincial roads running through the district, which are in charge of the Public Works Department, viz., (1) the Orissa Trunk Road, which enters the district at Kolā on the Rupnārāyan and, passing by Midnapore, runs to Dāntan on the frontier of Orissa, and (2) the Pilgrim Road from Midnapore to Rāniganj. The lengths of these roads within the district are 76 and 36 miles, respectively. Both are bridged and metalled throughout.

and are open at all times of the year; the bridges on the first road were constructed at the expense of Rājā Sukhnai, who bequeathed Rs. 1,50,000 for the purpose of facilitating the journey of pilgrims to Puri.

According to the returns for 1907-08, the District Board maintains 384½ miles of metalled roads and 358 miles of unmetalled roads. There are also a number of village tracks, with an aggregate length of 756 miles, which are managed by the Local Boards and Unions. The most important roads under the District Board are as follows —(1) The old Bombay Road from Midnapore to Chichra on the Singhbhūm border, 32 miles, metalled and bridged except over the Kasai river at the 7th mile and the Dalang river on the 29th mile. (2) Gbatal to Sijua on the Kasai river on the border of the Mānbhūm district, 52 miles, metalled and bridged except over the Silai at the 12th mile. (3) Panskura to Tamlūk, 18 miles, metalled and bridged. (4) Contai Road railway station to Contai, 36 miles, metalled and bridged. (5) Pirakuta via Goaltor to Garhbeta, 28 miles, metalled and bridged. (6) The Burdwān Road from Midnapore to the border of the Burdwān district, 35½ miles, of which 4½ miles are metalled. It has bridges or causeways except at the 17th mile over the Trimohani Khāl and at the 29th mile over the Silai river. (7) Garhbeta to Chandrakonā, 17½ miles, metalled and bridged. (8) Tamlūk to Contai, 39½ miles, metalled from Tamlūk to the Haldi river (11 miles), and from Contai to the Rasūlpur river (10 miles), and bridged except over the Haldi and Rasūlpur rivers. (9) Contai to Khejri (Kedgeroe), 16 miles, unmetalled road, bridged except over the Rasūlpur river. (10) Contai to Rāmnagar, 15 miles, an unmetalled road bridged except at the Pichahani Khāl on the 7th mile. Besides the above there are various shorter roads both metalled and unmetalled; a number of feeder roads to the different railway stations, varying in length from 200 yards to 30 miles, have been built or are in process of construction.

**WATER  
COMMUNI-  
CATIONS.**

There are three navigable canals in the district, viz., the Midnapore High Level Canal, the Hijili Tidal Canal and the Orissa Coast Canal. The Midnapore Canal runs from opposite Midnapore on the Kasai river to Dainan on the Rūpnārayan river, a distance of 36 miles. A regular steamer service was formerly kept up on it, but since the opening of the railway it has been stopped and other traffic has much diminished. The first distributary of this canal is also navigable for small boats, for a distance of 16½ miles, as far as the neighbourhood of Nārayangarh. The Hijili Tidal Canal and the Orissa Coast Canal connect Midnapore

with Orissa on the south and with the Hooghly river on the north, and for the purpose of navigation may be regarded as one continuous canal, though there are really two lengths constructed at different times. Starting at Geonkhali at the junction of the Rūpnārāyan and Hooghly rivers, it runs to the Haldi river (8 miles), thence to the Rūpnārāyan river (18 miles), and thence through the canalized Sarpai river to Contai (16 miles). About 6 miles above Contai the canal is continued to the boundary of the Balasore district (12 miles), passing through which it terminates at the Matai river. Traffic on this canal has also decreased since the opening of the railway along the east coast, and the regular service of steamers has ceased.

There is a daily steamer service from Calcutta *via* Geonkhali, Tamluk and Kolā (where the railway crosses the Rūpnārāyan) to Ghatal, which is maintained by the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company. Country boats ply in the Bay of Bengal, the Hooghly and the other tidal rivers of the district.

Only three or four kinds of boats are in use in this district. BOATS.  
For passenger traffic *pāris* and *bhaolis* are used. A *pāris* is a small oval-shaped boat covered with a bamboo and mat thatch. A *bhaola* is a somewhat larger boat with two or three cabins made of wood. During the rainy season, when the low-lying lands are flooded, dug-outs are used by the villagers for going from one village to another. These are scooped out of the trunks of thick *tāl* trees, and are 10 to 12 feet long and about 2 feet broad at the stern and 6 inches at the prow. They are propelled with long poles and can hold only two or three persons. They are called *pankats* in the Contai subdivision and *dongās* in other parts of the district. For goods traffic, the people use larger boats having small cabins covered with bamboo and mat thatch at the stern. The capacity of these boats varies from 100 to 1,000 maunds. Goods are stored in the hold, and if of a perishable nature are covered over with mats. In the south of the district stronger and more sea-worthy boats are used, those made near Contai being decked and capable of standing a moderate sea.

There are 144 post-offices in the district and 744 miles of postal communication. The number of postal articles delivered in 1908-09 was 4,324,866, including 1,497,756 letters, 2,012,530 post-cards, 280,878 packets, 470,314 newspapers and 63,388 parcels. The value of money-orders issued in the same year was Rs. 27,78,650 and of those paid Rs. 19,97,568; while the number of Savings Bank deposits was 12,428, the total amount deposited being Rs. 4,71,972. There are 11 postal telegraph offices situated

POSTAL  
DEPART-  
MENT.

TELE-  
GRAPH  
LINES.

at Midnapore, Chandrakonā, Contai, Egrā, Garhbeta, Ghātāl, Khirpai, Kolā, Midnapore Civil Court, Pānskura and Pamlūk.

The earliest telegraph line constructed in India ran to Kedgerce in this district. It is described as follows in the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* (1907), volume III, pages 437 and 439:—"In 1851 Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy, Assistant-Surgeon and Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College at Calcutta, obtained sanction to construct experimental telegraph lines along the Hooghly from Calcutta to Diamond Harbour, with a branch from Bishtopur to Māyāpur and an extension from Kukrahāti (on the farther side of the Hooghly) to Kedgerce, making, with some short additional sections, a total of 82 miles. In the same year, four offices (Calcutta, Māyāpur, Bishtopur and Diamond Harbour) were opened for business, which was principally connected with shipping, and two others (Kukrahāti and Kedgerce) were added in February 1852. The receiving instrument was a small galvanoscope, designed by Dr. O'Shaughnessy and made in India, and this pattern continued in use until the Morse instrument replaced it early in 1857 . . . .

"The earliest telegraph line constructed in the neighbourhood of Calcutta (1851-52) comprised overhead and underground sections, and included the crossing of the Hooghly and Haldi rivers. The overhead portion consisted of an uninsulated iron rod conductor  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch in diameter and weighing 1,250 lbs. per mile, in lengths of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet welded together end to end. It was supported on bamboos, 15 feet high and 200 to the mile, coated with coal-tar and pitch, and strengthened at intervals by posts, eight or ten to each mile, of teak, *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*), or iron-wood. The conductor was secured to the posts by means of strong iron clamps. The underground line used in Calcutta and its suburbs had a conductor similar to that of the overhead line, protected with two layers of Madras cloth saturated with melted pitch and tar, and laid in a row of roofing tiles filled with a melted mixture of sand and resin. The river cables were of English-made guttapercha-covered copper wire, which was secured for protection against dragging anchors, in the angle of a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " iron chain cable. One of these cables was laid across the Hooghly (2,070 yards) at Diamond Harbour, and another across the Haldi (1,400 yards) at Kedgerce."

## CHAPTER XI.

## LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

ACCORDING to the returns for 1907-08, there are 2,729 per-<sup>ESTATES.</sup>manently-settled estates, 203 temporarily-settled estates and 81 estates held direct by Government. The temporarily-settled estates extend over about one-eighth of the entire area of the district, and consist of four large parent estates comprising 23 entire *parganas*, principally situated in the south and east of the district, besides some small detached areas scattered here and there. The four large parent estates are Jalāmuthā, Majnāmuthā, Patāspur and Kalyānpur. At the time of the Permanent Settlement in 1793, the proprietors of the two estates of Jalāmuthā and Majnāmutha refused to engage for their lands on any but temporary conditions, on account of their liability to inundations of salt water. A magnificent sea-dyke and a series of embankments now protect these estates from incursions of the sea, but they are liable to inundations from behind, and the outturn of the crops is not always assured. Patāspur, the third large temporarily-settled estate, which adjoins Orissa, was in possession of the Marāthās up to 1803. It was then ceded to the British and has never been permanently settled. The fourth large temporarily-settled estate is Kalyānpur on the west of the district, consisting of *taufir*, or excess lands, i.e., lands which by oversight escaped settlement in 1793. Another temporarily-settled estate is Balrāmpur *pargana* situated in the neighbourhood of Kharagpur, about 10 miles south of the town of Midnapore. This *pargana* was permanently settled in 1793, but was brought to sale in 1838 for arrears of revenue, and was purchased by Government in default of bidders.

It has always been recognized in this district that proprietors of temporarily-settled estates should be granted remissions or suspensions of revenue in times of inundations, droughts and other calamities resulting in loss of crops, the proprietors for their part being bound to allow their tenants to share in such remissions or suspensions.

**Settle-  
ments.**

The Pataspur *pargana* has been surveyed under the Bengal Survey Act, and a record-of-rights for the eighteen temporarily-settled estates which it comprises has been prepared under the Bengal Tenancy Act, a settlement being made for fifteen years with effect from 1897. The other temporarily-settled estates are now being surveyed, and a record-of-rights is being prepared. The principal estates under survey and settlement are the two temporarily-settled estates of Jalāmutha and Majnāmuthā, situated in the Contai subdivision, both of which are under Government management. After the last settlement (made by Mr J. C. Price in 1875-77) great difficulties were felt in realizing rents and in executing certificates owing to the record having become obsolete. A test survey of eight villages was made in 1897 in order to ascertain whether the maps and records required complete revision, and it was finally decided to make a fresh survey and settlement. The opportunity was taken to bring under the operations a number of other Government and temporarily-settled estates, where the terms of settlement had either expired or were about to expire. Several zamindari estates were also added to the programme; and now (1909) operations are in progress in 56 Government estates with an area of 600 square miles, as well as in 468 square miles comprised in zamindari estates.

**Subdivi-  
sion of  
estates.**

There has been considerable subdivision of proprietary interests during the last half century. In 1850 the number of separate revenue-paying estates on the revenue roll was 2,561, while the number of registered proprietors and co-parceners was 4,735. In 1870 the number of such estates had increased to 2,808 and the number of registered proprietors and co-parceners to 6,358. At the present time the number of such estates is 3,013 and the number of registered proprietors and co-parceners is 20,405.

**Revenue-  
paying  
estates.**

For practical purposes the revenue-paying estates may be classified as follows:—(1) Old zamindaris as settled at the Permanent Settlement in entire *parganas* or *tappas*. The number of zamindars holding such estates that were then brought upon the Collectorate records was only 29. (2) *Taluks* which were treated as zamindaris at the Permanent Settlement. (3) Other estates added subsequently under the Resumption laws. As regards the second class, it may be explained that *taluks* were tenures which at the time of the Permanent Settlement were divided into two classes, viz., *husuri* (or independent), and *maskarti* (or *shikmi*), i.e., dependent. Independent *taluks* paid their revenue to Government direct, being separated from the zamindaris and entitled so to pay their revenue under the provisions of Regulation VIII of 1793; while dependent *taluks* paid the revenue through a

zamindār or other proprietor. Independent *tālūks* are classed with, and looked upon as, petty zamindāris. They are not distinguished in the Collectorate registers from the regular zamindāris, nor is there anything in those registers to show that they are of the character described in section 5, Regulation VIII of 1793. Dependent (*maskāri* or *shikmi*) *tālūks* of old times are scarcely to be found in this district. One such *tālūk* only can be traced in the records, viz., *tālūk* Jāmirāpāl, which is included in the Nayāgrām zamindāri.

Among other *tālūks* which have been constituted estates, may be mentioned *nānkār tālūks*, i.e., tracts of land originally exempted from assessment during the Mughal administration, being intended for the support of zamindārs and their families. There are two large tenures of this sort in the district—one in *pargana* Mudnapore called *nānkār* Ballabhpur, and another in *pargana* Majnāmuthā. Both of these have been brought under assessment, and are settled in perpetuity under Regulation VIII of 1793, paying their revenue direct to Government. There is also a third estate in the Patāspur *pargana* called *nānkār* Patāspur, which is not permanently settled but settled temporarily from time to time with the parent estate.

A curious class of estate consists of what are known as *jālpai* lands, i.e., fuel lands, which are so called because they used to supply fuel for boiling brine when the manufacture of salt was carried on. They are situated in the south and south-east corner of the district within the Contai and Tamlūk subdivisions, and formerly comprised large tracts of jungle and waste land impregnated with salt. Before the acquisition of the district by the British, these lands were used for the manufacture of salt by agents called *mālāngis*. In 1781 the East India Company deprived the zamindārs of the right to manufacture salt and established a Salt Department, which took possession of the *jālpai* lands. Under this arrangement, the *jālpai* lands, which were originally integral parts of private estates, seem to have been held by the Salt Department free of rent under a perpetual title of occupancy. As compensation for the loss of profits on salt-making the zamindārs received an allowance called *mushāharā*. The amounts so paid were fluctuating till 1794, when an annual sum was fixed, since known as *khālāri* rent: *khālāri* is a Bengali word meaning a salt bed or a place where salt is made. The lands were then farmed out by Government, and, for the purposes of the land revenue accounts, separate *tausi* numbers were assigned to them. The lands subsequently became the property of Government under the provisions of Regulation I of 1824, and their area is



about 120 square miles. There are at present 187 estates of *jalpai* lands bearing distinct numbers on the district revenue roll.

Even after Government abandoned the salt monopoly (in 1863), it continued to pay, and still pays, the *khālāri* rents to the zamindārs. From the judgment delivered by the Privy Council in the case *Secretary of State v. Rānī Anandmayī Devi* (I.L.R., 8 Cal., 95) it appears that the *khālāri* rent paid by Government to the proprietors was properly speaking a remission of revenue and that Government had an absolute right to settle these lands with whomsoever it pleased, subject to the payment of *khālāri* rent to the proprietors of the estates to which they originally belonged, or the grant of a remission of revenue proportionate to the area of which the proprietor had lost possession.

**TENURES.** The following is a brief account of the different tenures found in Midnapore:

**Āimās.** Elsewhere the tenures known as *āimās* are tenures granted rent-free, or subject to a small quit-rent, to learned or pious Musalmāns, or for religious or charitable uses connected with the Muhammadan faith. No such *āimās* seem to exist in this district. The tenures known by this name in Midnapore consist of lands granted for the purpose of clearing jungle, or for the improvement of the land, free of rent, or subject to small rents for the first few years and assessable subsequently at progressive or fixed rents. The *āimās* are mostly found in the Balarāmpur estate, which was purchased by Government in 1837 at a sale for arrears of revenue. In 1875, when the estate came under resettlement, the *āimādārs*, who would not agree to the terms offered them by the Settlement Officer, were set aside, and the settlement was made with the tenants immediately below them. Litigation ensued, and the *āimādārs* were declared by the Civil Court to be ryots having a right of occupancy. The settlement was then concluded with the *āimādārs*, leaving them to settle with their under-ryots. The rights accorded with the sanction of the Civil Court were agreed to, but it cannot be denied that they were less than the privileges claimed and that the settlement was the reverse of acceptable to those most affected by it. Subsequently, however, in 1904 during the resettlement of the estate (now in progress) the question of the status of the *āimādārs* was referred to the Board of Revenue, and it was decided that they are tenure-holders within the meaning of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

**Kamdura tenures.**

**Kamdura** tenures are lands granted by zamindārs previous to the Permanent Settlement, avowedly at rates lower than the prevailing rates, either as marks of favour or for jungle-clearing. In the settlements of the parent estates made under the Permanent

Settlement rules these rates were allowed to stand good, and the tenures were assessed accordingly, and settled dependently on the parent estates. Such tenures are hereditary and transferable.

*Panchaki* tenures are of a similar nature, being patches of land granted before the Permanent Settlement, and assessed at low rates. These tenures were then, as now, called *panchaki*, the word *panchak* meaning quit-rent. They are chiefly to be met with in Bāgri *pargana*, where they are permanently settled (dependently on their parent estates) at the original low rates of assessment. *Peshkashi* is also the denomination of a tenure held at a quit-rent. These tenures are similar to the *lamdura* tenures above-mentioned, and were recognized and settled in the same way.

*Patni tāluks* are a species of permanent tenures which originated in the estates of the Rājā of Burdwan after 1793 and thence spread to other parts of the Province. They are governed by the provisions of Regulation VIII of 1819, known as the Patni Sale Law, which declared the validity of such permanent tenures, defined the relative rights of the zamindārs and their subordinate *patni tālukdārs*, established a summary process for the sale of such tenures in satisfaction of the zamindār's demand of rent, and legalized under-letting, on similar terms, by the *patnidārs* and others. Since the passing of this law the *patni* form of tenure has been very popular with zamindārs who wish to divest themselves of the direct management of their property, or part of it, or who wish to raise money in the shape of a bonus.

It may be described as a tenure created by the zamindār to be held by the lessee and his heirs or transferees for ever at a rent fixed in perpetuity, subject to the liability of annulment on sale of the parent estate for arrears of the Government revenue, unless protected against the rights exercisable by auction-purchasers by common or special registry, as prescribed by sections 37 and 39 of Act XI of 1859. The tenant is called upon to furnish collateral security for the rent and for his conduct generally, or he is excused from this obligation at the zamindār's discretion. The main condition in the lease is that, in the event of an arrear occurring, the tenure may be sold by the zamindār; and if the sale-proceeds do not cover the arrear, the other property of the defaulting *patnidār* is liable for it. *Patnidārs* may under-let, but such leases are not binding on the zamindārs in the event of the tenure being sold for arrears.

Under-tenures created by *patnidārs* are called *darpatni*, and those created by *darpatnidārs* are called *sepatni* tenures. These under-tenures are, like the parent tenures, permanent, transferable and hereditary; and they have generally the same rights,

privileges and responsibilities attached to them. They are usually granted on payment of a bonus.

*Istimrārī taluks.*

*Istimrārī taluks* are farms, or leases, granted in perpetuity at a stipulated rent or at a quit-rent. These tenures are hereditary and transferable, and are not resumable by the grantors.

*Ijārā* is the common term for leases of lands to middlemen, who come in between the proprietors and the actual cultivators. The lands are leased at specified rates of rent, and ordinarily for limited periods. This district teems with *ijārādārī* tenures; and as *ijārādārī* holding short leases frequently sub-let their farms, *darijārās* or sub-leases are also common.

*Ijāra zarpeṣhgi* signifies a temporary lease or *ijārā* granted on receipt of an advance (*peṣhgi*) from the lessee, the proprietor's right of re-entry at the expiration of the term being contingent on the repayment or liquidation of the advance. Leases of this description are often granted in Midnapore, chiefly by indebted landholders.

*Kākhna ijārā* is the denomination of a temporary lease, or sub-lease, granted by the proprietor or farmer or under-farmer at a rack rent. The lessees in such cases are ordinarily bound to pay the rents engaged for by them without raising objection on the score of non-collection or insufficient collection from the lands leased. Leases of this kind are to be met with everywhere throughout Midnapore.

*Mandali tenures.*

In the more jungly tracts there is a special class of tenure-holders termed *mandals*. They were originally substantial ryots, called *abādikars*, who undertook to bring a tract of waste land under cultivation paying the zamindār a stipulated sum as rent. These *abādikars* then reclaimed the land, either themselves or with the help of other ryots, whom they induced to settle with them; established a village, to which they usually gave their name; and being heads of the settlements, were called *mandals*, or headmen. The zamindār and the *mandal* from time to time re-adjust the terms of their bargain, but the former does not interfere between the *mandal* and his under-tenants. In the settlement proceedings of 1839 these *mandals* were declared to have only the right of *sthāni* or *khudkāshī* ryots, and not to be entitled to any *munasfā* or profit. Though not exactly recognized as *talukdārs*, they gradually acquired rights superior to those of ordinary *khudkāshī* ryots; and as they were left to make their own terms with the ryots settled by them, they must have had a very considerable profit besides what they obtained from any land cultivated by themselves. Their *mandali* rights became transferable by custom, and when at subsequent settlements they

came into immediate contact with Government, though not recognized as regular *talukdars*, they were held entitled to consideration. The Government in settlement proceedings deducted 15 per cent. from the gross *jama* in their favour, and after some demur they accepted this as a sufficient recognition of their status.

In 1906-07 the status of the *mandals* in *pargana* Kalyānpur and the allowance to be given to them were decided during the re-settlement of that *pargana*. Those *mandals* who were found to be middlemen were given an allowance of 20 per cent. to be distributed between them and the subordinate tenure-holders (if any), but the allowance was raised to 30 and 35 per cent. in cases in which the tenure-holder had been treated more or less as a ryot at the last settlement.

In Midnapore, as in other districts, *lakṣhāj* is a common name for revenue-free or rent-free tenures. Many such tenures were created during the Muhammadan rule, the grantees being entitled to hold lands exempt from payment of revenue in perpetuity or for life only. Such grants were occasionally made by the Emperors and the local Governors for the support of the families of persons who had performed public services, for religious or charitable purposes, and for maintaining troops, etc. More often they were made by the zamindars, and even by officers of the Muhammadan Government appointed to the temporary superintendence of the revenue, under the pretext that the produce of the lands was to be appropriated to religious or charitable purposes, while in fact the alienations were made for the personal advantage of the grantees, or, clandestinely, of the grantors themselves. No effective measures to check these malpractices seem to have been adopted until 1793. By Regulation XIX of that year, only such of the *hukūmi* grants (i.e., grants made by zamindars, etc., as above stated) were declared to be valid as were made before the 12th August 1765, the date of the Company's accession to the *diwani*, provided that the grantees obtained possession previous to the above date, and that the lands were not subsequently rendered subject to the payment of revenue by competent authority. All grants made after the above date, but previous to 1790, were deemed valid only if confirmed by Government or any officer empowered to confirm them; but all lands of an area not exceeding 10 *bighas* (3½ acres) granted for religious purposes, which were *bona fide* appropriated to those purposes, were exempted from assessment. By Regulation XXXVII of 1793, all royal grants for holding lands exempt from the payment of revenue, made previous to the 12th August 1765, were declared valid if the

RENT-FREE  
LANDS.

grantees obtained possession of the lands so granted previous to that date, and if the grants had not been subsequently resumed by competent authority. Other grants made subsequent to the 12th August 1765 were deemed valid only if confirmed by Government, or by any officer empowered to confirm them.

*Bahālī  
lākhirāj*

All *lākhirāj* lands, which were exempted from payment of revenue under the provisions of the Regulations above-mentioned, or on the principles laid down in them, are called *bahālī lākhirāj* (i.e., confirmed *lākhirāj*) in Midnapore. The *lākhirāj* tenures created for religious and charitable purposes are called *debottar*, *brahmottar*, *wakf*, etc., as detailed below.

*Debottar.*

*Debottar* are rent-free lands the proceeds of which are appropriated to the worship and support of Hindu idols and temples. The ordinary method of making such grants is to dedicate certain property to an idol or to a temple; and this endowment is thenceforth called *debottar* property. As soon as the lands have been so dedicated, the rights of the donor lapse; he cannot alienate them, and his heirs cannot inherit them. *Debottar* tenures seem to be most frequent in the southern and eastern parts of the district, and nearly all seem to be appropriated to the support of family idols, the management of the property being retained by the donors or their families.

*Brahmot-  
tar.*

*Brahmottar* lands are lands granted rent-free to Brāhmans for their support, and that of their descendants, either as a reward for their sanctity or learning, or to enable them to devote themselves to religious duties. The pious object with which such grants were made in old times did not continue in force in later periods, when fraudulent grants were often made to Brāhmans from other considerations and with other motives. *Brahmottar* lands are more numerous in the Hijili portion of the district than elsewhere.

*Other  
rent-free  
lands.*

*Vaishnavottar* are lands granted rent-free for the support of Vaishnava devotees. *Mahattrān* lands are rent-free estates granted to persons of respectability. *Khushbāsh* lands are those granted rent-free to persons as sites for dwelling-houses, etc. *Bhātottar* are lands granted rent-free to *bhāts* or bards. *Ganakottar* are lands granted to *ganaks*, or fortune-tellers, astrologers and genealogists. *Sanyāsottar* are rent-free lands granted for the support of *sanyāsīs* or religious ascetics.

*Wakf.*

*Wakf* lands are rent-free lands appropriated for Muhammadan religious or charitable purposes. Like the *debottar* lands of Hindus, *wakf* lands are neither liable for the debts of the testator, whose proprietary rights cease after the completion of the endowment, nor alienable, though transferable temporarily for

the preservation or benefit of the endowment or the mosque. It has been held that if the property is wholly *wakf*, i.e., if all the profits are devoted exclusively to religious and charitable purposes, the *muldwalli*, or superintendent of the endowment, having only a life interest, is incompetent to grant leases for a longer period than the term of his own life; but if the office is hereditary, and the *muldwalli* has a beneficial interest in the property, it has been held that the property must be considered heritable, burdened with a certain trust. *Madad-māsh* are lands granted rent-free for the support of learned or pious Muhammadans. *Pirottar* are lands granted rent-free for the support of the tombs of *pirs*, i.e., saints and other holy men of the Muhammadan faith. *Nazrat* lands are presents made in land for religious purposes.

Another class of tenures in Midnapore consists of lands granted rent-free, or at a quit-rent, in return for military or other service performed by the grantee. SERVICE  
TENURES.

The most interesting of the service tenures are those called *paikān* Paikān or *paik jāgir*, because they consist of lands held by *paiks*. lands. These *paiks* formerly constituted a frontier militia, their services being remunerated by grants of land, which they held at quit-rents or free of all rent. Large bands of them used to be kept up by the *zamindārs* and jungle chiefs for the purposes of aggression and defence, and the *paiks* were also responsible for maintaining order within their estates. After British rule was established, they were retained for police duties, the relative positions of the Government, the *zamindār* and the *paiks* being as follows. The *zamindār* was responsible to Government for the efficient service of the *paiks*. He was entitled to appoint them, giving preference to heirs of old incumbents if they were qualified for the duty, and to dismiss them for incompetence or misconduct, and make over their lands to others. The *paiks* on their part were responsible to the *zamindār*.

The *paikān* lands generally consisted of blocks from 2 to 13 acres each, although in some cases in *pargana* Midnapore *paiks* are said to have been in possession of from 66 to 133 acres each of service land of this description. In February 1796, the area of *paikān* lands in Midnapore was returned at 33,350 acres, and in 1866 the total area, as ascertained by a special inquiry conducted by Mr. D. J. McNeile, c. s., was 28,115 acres. These lands were chiefly situated in the wilder tracts to the north and west of the district rather than in the southern or eastern parts, and were most frequently met with in *parganas* Midnapore, Manohargarh, Bhanjbhūm, Bāgri and Brāhmanbhūm.

This system failed to secure an efficient police force. In some parts of the district there was a large number of useless *paiks* collected together in one place, while in the adjacent villages there were no police at all. The *paiks* were held not to be under any obligation to do *chaukidars'* work, and when compelled to do it, did it very badly. From time to time, therefore, proposals for the resumption of the *paikan* lands were made by the local officers, but they were not sanctioned by Government owing to doubt whether it could lawfully resume such tenures. At length, in 1883, the Magistrate reported that the Rājā of Midnapore, the zamindār of several large *parganas* containing extensive *paikan* lands, was willing to have them resumed on certain conditions, and Government, after consulting the Board of Revenue, sanctioned the necessary negotiations. Long and intricate discussions followed, which it is not necessary to relate here. Ultimately, in 1887, the transaction was brought to a close. It may be briefly described as follows.

The *paiks* are tenants-at-will removable by Government and the zamindar for neglect of duty. They hold their lands practically rent-free, paying to the zamindār an almost nominal quit-rent, or *peshkash*. Thus, the quit-rent paid for 1,822 *lighās* in the Keshpur thāna was Rs. 886 yearly, or less than 8 annas a *bighā*. An enquiry was made to ascertain what was the all-round letting rate of these lands, and one rupee a *bighā* was fixed upon. From this were deducted the *peshkash* and 12½ per cent. collection charges; half the remainder was fixed as the revenue payable by the zamindār and added to his *sadar jamā*. On these terms he was allowed to dismiss the *paiks* and take possession of the land. The Chaukidāri Act was then introduced into the villages of the Keshpur thāna, which had previously been left to be guarded, or not guarded, as they pleased, by the useless and unmanageable *paiks*. In sanctioning these arrangements Government directed that the system should be introduced into other parts of the district with the concurrence of the zamindārs; and since then the service lands of the *paiks* have been gradually resumed and they themselves enlisted on regular pay under the Chaukidāri Act.

*Patwāri jāgīrs.*

*Patwāri jāgīrs* are lands assigned to *patwāris*, or village accountants, in lieu of wages; but such tenures are only met with in Patāspur *pargana*. The *patwāris* have no proprietary right in the land, which is only held on condition of service in lieu of salary.

*Arāi piyādā jāgīrs.*

*Arāi piyādā jāgīrs* are service tenures peculiar to Midnapore. Peons attached to the Collector's office hold revenue-free



lands in lieu of salary, and these lands are called by the name *arzi piyāda jāgir*. The tenure was created by a Muhammadan Governor, who in the year 1095 A.M. granted a *sanad* to one Sheikh Banjā, giving him certain lands revenue-free in perpetuity, in order to bring the soil under cultivation. The grantee in return performed certain ceremonial services, attended with eleven *chobdārs* on the Governor at Midnapore, and performed other duties connected with his Court. A deed for the land was subsequently obtained from Mr. Young, the Superintendent of *Bāze Zamin Daftar*, in 1786, and the grantee continued to attend the Collector of the district with eleven *chobdārs* as before. Attempts were made to resume these lands; but the Board, in its letters dated the 22nd May 1798 and 6th April 1842, prohibited their resumption on the part of Government, and they have since been held by the peons free of revenue in lieu of salary. The original deed was for 166 acres, but the quantity of land mentioned in that granted by Mr. Young seems to be 125 acres, and the actual quantity in the possession of the *piyādas* is 138 acres, situated in *parganas* Kharagpur and Midnapore.

*Daftri jāgir* is a plot of land, consisting of 7 acres, held as a *Daftri* service tenure by the *daftri* of the Midnapore Collector's office. *Jāgir*. The tenure seems to have been first created during the Muhammadan rule, when the *daftri* employed in the Revenue Court (*tahsildari kachahri*) at Khāndār had the lands in question assigned to him in lieu of salary. The grantee was continued in possession of the lands by the English; but subsequently the tenure was transferred to the *daftri* of the Collector's office. The original deed for the lands is not forthcoming, and no record exists to show why the *daftri* was remunerated in land in lieu of money.

Another curious service holding is the matmen's *jāgir*, which <sup>Matmen's</sup> comprises 214 *bighās* of land in twelve villages and is so called <sup>*jāgir*</sup> because the tenants who hold it supply mats to the District Officer of Midnapore in lieu of rent. It originated in the year 1744 A.D. with a grant made by the Nawāb Ali Vardi Khān to three persons named Kuar, Sarbeswar and Kunjo Chaudhri. After the death of the original grantees, their relative Sitārām Chaudhri claimed the lands, and as he was found in possession of them, the grant was confirmed and a new *sanad* granted in 1784. In 1850 a dispute having arisen amongst the matmen, an agreement was taken from them, by which they undertook to supply 42 large and 360 small mats; subsequently the number of mats to be supplied was reduced to 100. In 1879 the lands held by the matmen were registered under orders of the Board

of Revenue as a Government estate under the name of Kanakpur on the ground that Government received the mats as rent in kind. Since then it has continued to be a Government estate with a demand fluctuating according to the amount realized from the sale-proceeds of the mats.

Other  
service  
tenures.

*Behārā jāgīr*, *nāpūt jāgīr* and *kumhār jāgīr* are other service tenures. Lands granted rent-free by zamīndārs, etc., to *pālki*-bearers are called *behārā jāgīrs*; those granted to barbers are called *nāpūt jāgīrs*; and those granted to *kumhārs* (earthen-pot-makers) are called *kumhār jāgīrs*. These tenures are held on condition of service by the former two classes, and of supplying pots, (generally to *thākurbāris*, i.e. temples), by the latter. Such tenures, and others of the kind, exist more or less in almost all large zamīndāris.

## CHAPTER XII.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

THE administration of the district is in charge of the Collector and District Magistrate, who is also *ex-officio* Assistant to the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahāls, Cuttack, and has the powers of a Revenue Superintendent of Canals in the Howrah district. During the last few years an additional District Magistrate has been appointed, who has relieved the District Magistrate of some of his ordinary work. For general administrative purposes the district is divided into four subdivisions with head-quarters at Midnapore, Ghatal, Tamlūk and Contai. In the head-quarters subdivision, which is under the direct supervision of the Collector, the regular staff consists of six Deputy Collectors, besides two or three Sub-Deputy Collectors and a special Deputy Collector for excise. The other subdivisions are in charge of Sub-divisional Officers, of whom the Sub-divisional Officer of Tamlūk is generally assisted by a Sub-Deputy Collector, while at Contai there is a second Deputy Collector for the management of *khān mahāls*. The canals and embankments in the centre and east of the district are in charge of an Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department, whose charge is known as the Cossye Division, while those in the south along the sea-board are included in the Contai subdivision, and those along the Hooghly estuary in the Etamogra subdivision of the Balasore Division.

The revenue of the district, under the main heads, increased from Rs. 31,01,000 in 1880-81, when the income-tax had not been imposed, to Rs. 34,95,000 in 1890-91 and to Rs. 37,38,000 in 1900-01. In 1907-08 it further increased to Rs. 41,49,474, of which Rs. 23,45,080 were derived from land revenue, Rs. 9,29,125 from stamps, Rs. 4,39,752 from excise, Rs. 3,55,472 from cesses and Rs. 82,045 from income-tax.

The collections of land revenue rose from Rs. 22,45,000 in 1880-81 to Rs. 24,34,000 in 1890-91, but fell again to Rs. 22,40,000 in 1900-01. In 1907-08 they amounted to Rs. 23,45,080 collected from 3,013 estates, the current demand being Rs. 24,49,385. Of these estates, 2,729 with a current demand of Rs. 18,91,399 are permanently settled, and 203 with a demand of Rs. 88,708 are temporarily settled, while there are 81 estates with a demand of Rs. 4,69,278 held direct by Government. The

demand is larger than in any other district of the Province except Burdwan, and is equivalent to 36 per cent. of the reported gross rental of the district.

Stamps.

The revenue derived from the sale of stamps was Rs. 5,55,000 in 1895-96, and averaged Rs. 6,44,000 per annum in the quinquennium ending in 1899-1900. During the five years ending in 1904-05 the annual receipts averaged Rs. 7,64,000, and in 1907-08 they were Rs. 9,29,125, as against Rs. 6,93,877 in 1897-98, the sale of judicial stamps accounting for Rs. 7,37,424 or nearly four-fifths of the total amount. The sale of court-fee stamps is by far the most important item in the receipts from judicial stamps, realizing Rs. 6,78,408 in 1907-08 as compared with Rs. 5,01,844 in 1897-98. Here, as elsewhere, the revenue derived from non-judicial stamps has not grown as rapidly, rising in the same period from Rs. 1,57,200 to Rs. 1,91,700. Of the latter sum impressed stamps accounted for Rs. 1,84,480 as against Rs. 1,51,200 ten years previously.

Excise.

The next most important source of revenue is excise, the receipts from which increased from Rs. 3,21,370 in 1897-98 to Rs. 4,37,752 in 1907-08, the net excise revenue being Rs. 1,455 per 10,000 of the population as against the Provincial average of Rs. 3,206 per 10,000. Nearly half of this sum was obtained from the sale of opium, which realized Rs. 2,03,856 in 1907-08. The people of Midnapore have long been addicted to the use of opium, and in the year referred to the consumption of the drug was greater than in any district in Bengal except Cuttack and Balasore. There were 114 shops licensed for retail sale, i.e., one shop to every 24,466 persons. The aggregate amount realized from duty and license fees represented Rs. 730 for every 10,000 of the population, as compared with the average of Rs. 548 for the whole Province.

After opium, the largest receipts are obtained from the manufacture and sale of country spirit, which is carried on under the contract supply system, which was introduced in 1905. Under this system the local manufacture of country spirit has been prohibited, and a contract has been made with firms of distillers for its supply. The spirit is brought from the distillery to the various depôts, and is there blended and reduced to certain fixed strengths, at which alone it may be supplied to retail vendors and sold by the latter to the public.

The receipts from duty and license-fees on this spirit are less than in any other district in the Burdwan Division except Burdwan and Hooghly, amounting in 1907-08 to Rs. 1,36,990. There were in that year 76 shops licensed for its retail sale, i.e., one retail shop for every 68 square miles and 34,251 of

the population, the annual consumption being 12 proof gallons per 1,000 of the population. The sale of the fermented liquor known as *tārī* brought in only Rs. 11,399, while the receipts from *pachwai* or rice beer, which is specially drunk by the aborigines, amounted to Rs. 15,118 in the same year. The average receipts from both spirits and fermented liquor amounted to Rs. 615 per 10,000 as compared with Rs. 1,616 for the Burdwan Division and Rs. 2,298 for the whole of Bengal, while the incidence of taxation was only 9 pies per head.

There is no great demand for *gāñā*, i.e., the unimpregnated dried flowering tops of the cultivated female hemp plant (*Cannabis Indica*), and the resinous exudation on them; the amount realized from the duty and license-fee was Rs. 55,921 in 1907-08. The total incidence of the revenue accruing from hemp drugs was only Rs. 217 for every 10,000, and the number of shops licensed to sell by retail was one to every 23,137 persons.

Road and public works cesses are, as usual, levied at the Cesses maximum rate of one anna in the rupee. The total collections increased from Rs. 3,23,853 in 1897-98 to Rs. 3,55,172 in 1907-08. The current demand in the latter year was Rs. 3,63,531, of which the greater part (Rs. 3,26,833) was due from 6,278 revenue-paying estates. Rupees 24,343 were due from 2,947 revenue-free estates, while Rs. 12,355 were payable by 2,218 rent-free lands. The number of recorded share-holders of estates was 44,818. There were 72,086 tenures assessed to cesses with 108,220 shareholders; the number of tenures was thus more than six times that of estates. The total demand of cesses (Rs. 4,11,227) was equal to nearly a sixth of the demand of land revenue (Rs. 26,15,502).

In 1896-97 the income-tax yielded Rs. 76,568 paid by Income-tax. 3,918 assesses, and in 1901-02 the amount derived from the tax had increased to Rs. 97,393 and the number of assesses to 4,953. At that time the minimum income assessable was Rs. 500, but this was raised to Rs. 1,000 in 1903, thereby affording relief to a number of petty traders, money-lenders and clerks. The number of assesses consequently fell in 1903-04 to 1,417, the net collections being Rs. 75,451. In 1907-08 the tax brought in Rs. 82,045 paid by 1,574 assesses.

There are 24 offices for the registration of assurances under Registration. Act III of 1877. At Midnapore the District Sub-Registrar deals, as usual, with the documents presented there and assists the additional District Magistrate, who is *ex-officio* District Registrar, in supervising the proceedings of the Sub-Registrars in charge of the other registration offices.

In the five years 1895—1899 the average number of documents registered

OFFICES.	Documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
Midnapore ... ..	4,584	13,318	9,442
Agra Patna ... ..	3,210	3,454	1,580
Contai ... ..	5,783	6,481	3,017
Contai, joint (Marisdah)	2,558	3,400	1,229
Contai, second joint (Bamdebpur).	1,762	1,955	1,511
Dāntan ... ..	5,275	4,899	1,984
Debrā ... ..	2,566	2,497	1,889
Garhbētā ... ..	4,023	4,461	1,878
Gopālnābhpur ... ..	2,288	1,832	1,363
Ghātāl ... ..	3,678	3,670	2,202
Jara ... ..	3,097	3,302	1,597
Kājāgar ... ..	5,407	6,328	1,698
Keshpur (Amundapur) ...	3,278	3,879	1,921
Kheri ... ..	2,960	3,408	1,287
Kokranāt ... ..	3,339	4,140	1,689
Lodhnauli at Jhangram ...	2,320	2,362	1,925
Mahishādāl ... ..	3,496	4,173	1,924
Nandigram ... ..	6,197	7,618	2,625
Narāyanagarh ... ..	2,823	3,022	1,635
Panskura ... ..	5,672	5,246	2,308
Patāspur ... ..	3,700	3,917	1,596
Ramnagar ... ..	3,815	4,686	1,735
Sābang (Pingla) ... ..	3,950	4,288	1,908
Tamlūk ... ..	4,893	5,469	2,340
Total	90,674	1,06,805	51,788

annually was 73,004; in the next quinquennium (1900—1904) it increased to 85,835; and in 1907 the number rose to 90,674, as shown in the marginal statement, which gives the salient statistics for that year. This increase is attributed to the settlement of *chaukidārī chākārān* lands by the Midnapore Zamindari Company, to the settlements made by other zamindars,

and to the fact that some holders of *debottar* lands, being unable to sell them legally, granted perpetual leases on handsome premia reserving nominal annual rents.

#### JUDICIAL STAFF.

The district is within the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore. The subordinate civil judicial officers are:—two Subordinate Judges at Midnapore, four Munsifs at the same place, three Munsifs at Contai, two Munsifs at Ghātāl, four Munsifs at Tamlūk, and one Munsif at Garhbētā. At Midnapore criminal justice is administered by the District Magistrate, by the Additional District Magistrate, by six Deputy Magistrates of whom four are Magistrates with first-class powers, while two are Magistrates of the second or third class, and by the Sub-Deputy Magistrates, who also have second or third class powers. The Sub-divisional Officers of Ghātāl, Tamlūk and Contai are almost invariably Magistrates of the first class; there is also, as a rule, a Deputy Magistrate at Contai and a Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Tamlūk, both with second-class powers. Besides these stipendiary Magistrates, there are Benches of Honorary Magistrates at

Midnapore, Ghátál, Tamlúk, Contai and Chandrakoná, as well as an Honorary Magistrate at Jara and another at Dántan.

Midnapore has long been notorious for the number of <sup>Crime.</sup> dacoities committed within its borders. These are largely the work of Lodhás, an aboriginal tribe mainly found in the Nārāyangaṛh and neighbouring thānas, and of Tuntías, a Muhammadan caste, whose traditional occupation is the cultivation of the mulberry tree (*tunt*) for feeding silk-worms. This occupation having become unprofitable, many of them have taken to criminal courses, and are professional thieves and dacoits. Steps have been taken to break up a number of gangs which were found to have formed in the district, two of which had 240 members between them. Another gang, known as the Calcutta-Midnapore gang of swindlers and blackmailers, is referred to as follows in the Report on the Administration of the Police in 1907 :—" This was a gang formed for the purpose of engineering false, civil and criminal cases against persons whose enemies desired to harass them. The leader had his head-quarters in Calcutta, where he maintained a regular office of business. His myrmidons lived some in Calcutta and some in Midnapore, the district from which the large majority of his clients hailed. His *modus operandi* in the institution of criminal cases was as follows. On an application being made by some one wishing to put an enemy into trouble, he with his accomplices would go to some distant district and give out that he had come on business with money to make purchases. One of the gang would assume the name of the man who was to be harassed and play the part of a servant. After some days he would disappear, on which the leader or one of his companions would proceed to lodge information against him, alleging that he had absconded with certain money which had been entrusted to him. The address of the absconder given would be the address of the victim they wished to harass, whose arrest would naturally follow."

For police purposes the district is divided into thānas, outposts, Police road-posts and beat-houses as shown below.—

*Sadar Subdivision—*

*A Division.*

Midnapore (Khasphari,  
Nutanbazar, Patnabazar  
and Habibpur town out-  
posts).  
Kashpur.  
Sálbani.

*Contai Subdivision.*

Contai.  
Bahiri.  
Básudebpur.  
Rāmnagar.  
Egrá.  
Patáspur.

<i>Sadar Subdivision—</i>	<i>Contai Subdivision—</i> conold
<i>A Division—</i> conold.	Khejuri.
Garhbetā (Goāltor and	Bhagwānpur.
Chandrakonā road posts).	Henria.
Debrā.	<i>Tamlūk Subdivision.</i>
<i>B Division.</i>	Tamlūk (Tamlūk town out-
	post).
Kharagpur.	Maynā.
Sābaug.	Pānskurā (Kolā road post).
Pingla.	Maslandpur.
Nārāyanganrh (Belda road	Geonkhāli.
post).	Sufāhātā.
Kesiāri.	Nandigrām.
<i>C Division.</i>	<i>Ghātāl Subdivision.</i>
	Ghātāl (Ghātāl and Kharār
	town outposts).
Dantan.	Dāspur.
Mohanpur.	Chandrakonā (Chandrakonā
Jhargram.	and Khirpai town outposts).
Binpur (Simla road post).	Rāmjiānpur (Rāmjiānpur
Gopiballābhpur.	town outpost and Inda beat-
Nayāgram	house).

The regular police force consisted in 1907 of the District Superintendent of Police, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, 9 inspectors, 77 sub-inspectors, 1 sergeant, 83 head-constables and 773 constables, including 4 men employed in river patrols. The total strength of the force was therefore 944 men, representing one policeman to every 5·4 square miles and to every 2,954 of the population. There is also a small body of town *chaukidārs* enrolled under the Police Act in the municipalities. The *Chaukidāri* Act, VI (B.C.) of 1870, has been extended to all parts of the district with the exception of three thānas, Gopiballābhpur, Jhargrām and Binpur, in which it has only been introduced into a few small and scattered villages. These thānas, which lie to the west of the district and have a population mostly of Santāls, are reported to be not suited to the introduction of the Act. Many of the *chaukidārs* in this part of the district are still remunerated by service lands. They are successors of the *paiks*, or foot soldiers, who were retained by the zamindārs of former times as a defence against the incursions of Marathās and hill robbers. Their service lands are being gradually resumed,



and they are being enlisted on regular pay under the *Chaukidari Act*. In 1907 the rural police force consisted of 493 *duffadars* and 6,239 *chaukidars*, of whom 5,793 were *chaukidars* under Act VI (B.C.) of 1879, while 59 were under Regulation XX of 1817, and 337 were *chakran chaukidars* remunerated by grants of land. There was one *chaukidar* to every 447 inhabitants.

There is a District and Central jail at Midnapore, *i.e.*, it is JAILS. used both as a Central jail and as a District jail. A Central jail, it may be explained, is intended for the confinement of persons sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, *i.e.*, convicts sentenced to more than two years' imprisonment are transferred to it from other jails. As a District jail it is used for the imprisonment of persons sentenced at Midnapore and of those transferred from the subsidiary jails at the subdivisional head-quarters, as well as for the detention of local under-trial prisoners. This jail had, in 1908, accommodation for 1,012 prisoners distributed as follows. There were barracks for 641 male convicts, 27 female convicts, 40 under-trial prisoners and 8 civil prisoners; there were cells for 220 convicts, while the hospital had accommodation for 76 prisoners. The industries carried on in the jail are chiefly aloe-pounding, coir-pounding and coir-mat-making, cotton-weaving and the manufacture of prison clothing, dusters, *pardahs*, *daris* and cotton carpets, cane chairs and tables. A bakery is also worked.

There are subsidiary jails at Ghatal, Tamluk and Contai, *i.e.*, lock-ups in which under-trial prisoners and prisoners sentenced to less than 14 days' imprisonment are confined, other prisoners being transferred to the Midnapore jail. The sub-jail at Ghatal has accommodation for 20 under-trial prisoners (18 males and 2 females) and that at Tamluk for 15 (12 male and 3 female) convicts, while the sub-jail at Contai has accommodation for 37 prisoners, *viz.*, 13 male and 2 female convicts and 22 male under-trial prisoners.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

DISTRICT  
BOARD.

OUTSIDE municipal areas the administration of local affairs, such as the maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries and pounds, the control of village sanitation and water-supply, the provision of medical relief, and a general supervision over Primary and Middle schools, rests with the District Board, assisted by Local Boards, which have been constituted for each of the subdivisions, and by the Union Committees of Contai, Jara, Pānskurā and Pingla. The District Board consists of 25 members, of whom 12 are elected, 7 are nominated, and 6 are *ex-officio* members. According to the returns for 1907-08, Government servants and pleaders or *mukhtārs* predominate, each class representing 32 per cent. of the members, while the land-holding classes represent 28 per cent.

## Income.

The average annual income of the District Board during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 2,53,000, of which Rs. 1,51,000 were derived from the road cess. In 1907-08 the opening balance was Rs. 2,45,015, and the income of the year aggregated Rs. 3,17,750, including Rs. 1,77,528 realized from the road cess, Rs. 48,921 contributed from Provincial revenues, and Rs. 69,691 obtained from civil works, of which Rs. 11,389 were obtained from tolls on ferries, while Rs. 12,187 were realized from the lease of pounds: the number of ferries and pounds was 20 and 180, respectively. Here, as elsewhere, the road cess is the principal source of income, but the incidence of taxation is light, being only one anna per head of the population—a proportion lower than in any other district in the Burdwan Division except Bānskurā.

Expendi-  
ture.

The average annual expenditure during the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 2,52,000, of which Rs. 1,55,000 were spent on civil works, Rs. 61,000 on education, and Rs. 3,000 on medical relief. In 1907-08 the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,55,326, of which nearly three-fourths (Rs. 2,55,139) was spent on civil works, while education accounted for Rs. 68,535 and medical relief for Rs. 11,016. The heaviest charge on the income of the District Board is the maintenance of communications; it now (1909) maintains 384½ miles of metalled roads and 358 miles

of unmetalled roads, besides a number of village tracks with a total length of 756 miles; the cost of maintaining these roads in 1907-08 was Rs. 258, Rs. 25 and Rs. 18 per mile, respectively. Special attention has been given to the extension and improvement of railway feeder roads since the construction of the railway. During 1907-08 one feeder road was completed and three were under construction, on one of which, viz., the road from Dantan to Gopiballabhpur, the Board spent Rs. 22,465. The Board maintains 9 Middle schools and aids 1 High school, 55 Middle schools, 360 Upper Primary schools, 2,730 Lower Primary schools, one Industrial school and one other school. For the purposes of medical relief the District Board maintains one dispensary and aids 13 others. Altogether 42 per cent. of the ordinary income of the Board was expended in 1907-08 on medical relief and sanitation, a proportion lower than in any other district in the Division. An itinerant veterinary assistant is also entertained by the District Board.

In subordination to the District Board are the Midnapore, Ghātal, Tamlūk and Contai Local Boards, the jurisdiction of each corresponding to the subdivisional charge of the same name. The Sadar or Midnapore Local Board is composed of 21 members, of whom 6 are elected and 18 are nominated; the Ghātal Local Board has 15 members, of whom 10 are elected and 5 are nominated; the Local Board at Tamlūk has 18 members, of whom one is elected and 17 are nominated; and that at Contai has 21 members, of whom 14 are elected and 7 are nominated. The Local Boards receive allotments from the funds of the District Board, and are entrusted with the maintenance of village roads, pounds and ferries.

There are five Union Committees in the district, viz., Contai with an area of 7½ square miles, Jara (10 square miles), Lowāḍa (10 square miles), Pānskurā (13 square miles) and Pīnglā, (the area of which is returned as 'not known'), all constituted in 1895. The aggregate population under these Committees is 63,996, varying from 16,486 in Contai to 11,246 in Jara. The Committee at Contai is administered by a Board of 7 members, while each of the remaining four is composed of 9 members.

There are seven municipalities in the district, viz., Midnapore, Tamlūk, Ghātal, Chandrakonā, Rāmjībanpur, Khīrpai and Kharār. The number of rate-payers in 1907-08 was 16,943, representing 18.9 per cent. of the population (89,615) residing in municipal limits, as compared with the average of 16.71 per cent. for the whole Division. The average incidence of taxation in that year was annas 11-11 per head of the population, as

against the divisional average of Rs. 2-2-8, and varied from 5 annas in Rāmjibanpur to Re. 1-2-11 in Midnapore.

Midnapore  
1917.

The municipality at Midnapore, which was established in 1865, is administered by a Municipal Board composed of 18 Commissioners, of whom 12 are elected, 3 are nominated by Government, and 3 are *ex-officio* members. The area within municipal limits is 4 square miles, the number of rate-payers being 5,210, or 15·7 per cent. of the population living within municipal limits. The average annual income of the municipality during the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 60,000, and the expenditure averaged Rs. 58,000. In 1907-08 the income aggregated Rs. 74,318, besides an opening balance of Rs. 10,229, and the expenditure was Rs. 75,495. The chief source of income is a tax on holdings assessed at 7½ per cent. on their annual value; this tax brought in Rs. 18,600. Next in importance is a conservancy rate, which brought in Rs. 14,457. A tax on animals and vehicles realized Rs. 5,557, while Rs. 12,503 were obtained from fees and revenues from educational institutions. The total incidence of taxation was Re. 1-2-11 per head of the population.

Tamluk.

Tamluk was constituted a municipality in 1864, and has a Municipal Board consisting of 12 Commissioners, of whom 8 are elected, 2 are nominated by Government and 2 are *ex-officio* members. The area within municipal limits is 2½ square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 2,072, representing 26·32 per cent. of the population residing within municipal limits. The average annual income of the municipality during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 8,000, and the expenditure was Rs. 7,000. In 1907-08 the income of the municipality was Rs. 10,835 (excluding an opening balance of Rs. 1,074), of which Rs. 3,400 were obtained from a tax on persons assessed at 12 annas per cent. on the annual income of the assesses, and a conservancy rate which brought in Rs. 2,327, while fees from markets realized Rs. 2,391. The incidence of taxation was annas 13-5 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 11,146.

Ghatal.

The municipality of Ghatal was established in 1869, and is administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 15 Commissioners, of whom 10 are elected and 5 are nominated by Government. The area within municipal limits is nearly 4 square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 2,843, representing 19·55 per cent. of the population living within municipal limits. The average annual income of the municipality during the 10 years ending in 1901-20 was Rs. 8,000, and the expenditure was Rs. 7,000.

In 1907-08 its income was Rs. 8,851, besides an opening balance of Rs. 1,954, and the expenditure was Rs. 10,987. The chief source of income is a tax on persons, according to their circumstances and property, levied at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the income of the rate-payers. This tax brought in Rs. 5,724, and a tax on animals and vehicles realized Rs. 1,128. The total incidence of taxation was 8 annas per head of the population.

Chandrakona was constituted a municipality in 1869. It is administered by a Municipal Board of 12 Commissioners, of whom 8 are elected and 4 are nominated by Government. The area within municipal limits is nearly 10 square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 2,160, representing 2.3 per cent. of the population living within the municipal area. The average annual income and expenditure during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 4,000. In 1907-08 its income was Rs. 6,767, besides an opening balance of Rs. 670. The chief source of income was a tax on persons assessed at 1 per cent. according to the circumstances and property of the rate-payers, which brought in Rs. 2,295, while a tax on animals and vehicles realized Rs. 1,037. The incidence of taxation was annas 5.10 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 6,467.

The municipality at Ramjibanpur was established in 1876 and is administered by a Municipal Board of 9 Commissioners, of whom 6 are elected and 3 are nominated by Government. The area within municipal limits is 1 square mile and the number of rate-payers is 1,971, representing 19.2 per cent. of the population. The average annual income during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 2,800, and the expenditure averaged Rs. 2,700. In 1907-08 its income was Rs. 4,842, in addition to an opening balance of Rs. 1,100. The principal source of income is a tax on persons assessed at  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the annual income of the rate-payers, according to their circumstances and property, which brought in Rs. 2,221. The total incidence of taxation was 5 annas per head of the population. The expenditure during the same year was Rs. 5,223.

Khirpai was constituted a municipality in 1876. It has a Municipal Board of 9 Commissioners, of whom 6 are elected and 3 are nominated by Government. The area within the municipality is 2 square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 1,151, or 23.2 per cent. of the population residing within municipal limits. The average annual income and expenditure during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 2,300. In 1907-08 its income was Rs. 3,751, besides an opening balance of

Rs. 364, and the expenditure was Rs. 3,439. The chief source of income was a tax on persons levied at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the annual income of the assesses according to their circumstances and property, which realized Rs. 1,669, while a tax on animals and vehicles realized Rs. 1,210. The incidence of taxation was annas 9-4 per head of the population.

Kharār.

The municipality at Kharār was established in 1888. It is administered by a Municipal Board of 15 Commissioners, of whom 10 are elected and 5 are nominated by Government. The area within the municipality is nearly 4 square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 1,536, representing 16·2 per cent. of the population residing within municipal limits. The average annual income during the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 3,500, and the expenditure was Rs. 3,600. In 1907-08 the receipts amounted to Rs. 5,177, exclusive of an opening balance of Rs. 793, and the expenditure was Rs. 4,692. The chief source of income was a tax on persons levied at 1 per cent. on the annual income of the rate-payers according to their circumstances and property, which brought in Rs. 3,083, while a tax on animals and vehicles realized Rs. 1,167. The incidence of taxation was annas 7-3 per head of the population.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## EDUCATION

THE marginal table illustrates the progress of education in Midnapore since 1871-72. In 1908-09 no less than 53·8 per cent. of the boys of school-going age were under instruction and 54 per cent. of the

YEAR.	Schools.	Scholars.	PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.
1871-72	2,004	28,141	
1880-81	3,066	74,791	
1900-01	4,919	118,399	
1908-09	4,892	124,784	

female population of school-going age. This proportion compares favourably with the ratio for the whole of Bengal, while the statistics obtained at the census of 1901 show that elementary education, at least, is more widely diffused than in any other district of the province except Howrah. The number of persons returned as literate, i.e., able to read and write, was 295,064, representing 10·6 per cent. (20·5 males and 0·7 females) of the population, while 10,753 persons were able to read and write English.

The inspecting staff consists of a Deputy Inspector of Schools, assisted by four Additional Deputy Inspectors, of 30 Sub-Inspectors and of four Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

There is one college in the district, the Midnapore College, which was founded as a Zillā school in 1834, and was converted into a High school in 1873. Since the Government order of the 16th October 1877, changing the nomenclature of Government schools, it has been called the Midnapore Second Grade College. It is supported partly by Government and partly by the interest of an endowment fund, raised by the people of the district and amounting to Rs. 51,000 in Government securities and municipal debentures. The management of the institution, which had been under the control of the Director of Public Instruction and of a District School Committee, was made over by Government to the local municipality, on the 1st of July 1887, on the grant-in-aid system. Students who have passed the University Entrance Examination and intend to work for the First Examination in Arts, are admitted to the college. The tuition fee in the college department is Rs. 5 a month, and that

in the school department varies from one rupee in the lowest, to three rupees in the highest class. A law department was opened in 1873, and was affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the B.L. standard in June 1892. On the 31st March 1909 there were 54 students on the rolls of the college.

SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS.

There are 119 secondary schools in the district, of which 17 are High schools, 63 are Middle English schools and 39 are Middle Vernacular schools. All these schools are under private management with the exception of one High school, six Middle English schools and four Middle Vernacular schools, which are under public management, i.e., are maintained by the District or Municipal Boards. Of the remainder, 10 High schools, 39 Middle English schools, and 26 Middle Vernacular schools are aided. The total attendance at all secondary schools in 1908-09 was 9,924, including 32 girls; altogether 3,170 pupils, or 1·4 per cent of the population of school-going age, were in the secondary stage of instruction. There were altogether 598 teachers in these schools. The following is a list of the different High schools :—

		Name of School	Number of pupils on 31st March 1909
Managed by Municipality.	{	Midnapore Collegiate school ...	232
	{	Birsingha ...	85
	{	Chandrakonā ...	111
	{	Contai ...	264
	{	Garhbetā ...	211
Aided	...	Ghātāl ...	162
	{	Gopālnagar ...	150
	{	Jara ...	136
	{	Midnapore (Local Mission) ...	128
	{	Pinglā ...	121
	{	Tamlūk ...	291
	{	Irpālā ...	130
	{	Mahishādal ...	160
Unaided	..	Midnapore (Hindu) ...	123
	{	Midnapore (Town) ...	258
	{	Nārājol ...	96
	{	Pachetgarh ...	41

PRIMARY  
SCHOOLS.

There are 3,779 Primary schools for boys, of which 366 are Upper Primary and 3,413 are Lower Primary schools. Of the Upper Primary schools, 344 are aided from the District fund and



14 are unaided. Only eight are managed by the Education Department, viz., the practising schools attached to each of the Guru Training schools. Of the Lower Primary schools, 2,785 are aided from the District fund and 628 are unaided. The total attendance in 1908-09 was 104,594, of whom 16,325 were studying in Upper Primary and 88,269 in Lower Primary schools, the average number of pupils in each school being 44·6 and 25·8 respectively. Altogether 50 per cent. of the male population of school-going age attended Primary schools, and there was on the average one such school for every 2·2 villages. There were altogether 4,145 teachers in these schools.

A special system of remunerating the teachers, which is known as the Midnapore system, was introduced in these schools a few years ago. Its main features are as follows. The payment system has been modified, so that the *gurus* are not paid only on the results of the annual examination. They receive a fixed subsistence allowance at the rate of Re. 1 per quarter, in order to ensure the stability of the schools; and the amount of the rewards they are given is regulated by other considerations, e.g., accommodation, total roll number and average attendance, and the qualifications and efficiency of the teachers. The annual examination, which used to be held at selected centres to test their proficiency and the progress made by their pupils, is now held *in situ*. For the encouragement of the teachers, and in order to enable them to impart more useful instruction to their pupils, books, furniture, etc., have been distributed among them, the charge being met from the additional grant made by Government for the purpose.

The total number of girls at school on the 31st March 1909 was 12,344, of whom no less than 6,932 were reading in boys' schools—a fact which goes far to show that co-education is not unpopular in Midnapore. Altogether 290 girls' schools have been opened, viz., 2 Middle English, 62 Upper Primary and 226 Lower Primary. The two Middle English schools are the Quiquota Mission school which is aided, and the Contai Brahmasji school which is unaided. All the Upper Primary schools are aided, and they include two model girls' schools situated at Midnapore and Contai. Of the Lower Primary schools, only 41 are aided. For the teaching of *zauāna* ladies, there are 12 female teachers, who go from house to house and instruct *pardah-wāshīn* ladies.

The only technical school in the district is the Mahishadal technical school at Midnapore, which was started in 1885 with the help of an endowment of Rs. 5,000, to which the Raja of Mahishadal

contributed largely. It is supported by the proceeds of this endowment and by contributions from Provincial revenues and the District fund. The school is affiliated to the Sibpur Engineering College and teaches up to the sub-overseer's standard, the course in the first year being carpentry, and in the second year smith's work. The number on the rolls on 31st March 1909 was 60, of whom 51 were in the sub-overseer's class. The artisan class was attended by only one pupil, and the remaining eight were students belonging to the Midnapore College, who having taken up the B course come to the school to study the technical portion of that course. It is thus more a feeder school to the Sibpur Engineering College than a technical school, for it has few artisans' sons on the rolls, and most students go there to work for the sub-overseership examination. The pupils live in a hostel about a quarter of a mile from the school.

Regarding this school Mr. J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., writes:—"In 1905 the condition of affairs was so bad, that the Principal at Sibpur recommended that the privilege of affiliation should be withdrawn. A strong Committee has, however, been since appointed, in which are included the District Engineer, the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department and the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the head-quarters of which are at Kharagpur close to Midnapore. The school does not, and is not, likely to turn out men who will become practical mechanics. The system of apprenticeships for the Kharagpur Railway Workshops gives an opening to any passed pupil who wishes to obtain practical and remunerative employment, but every applicant must remember that there is far more drudgery to be undergone in a commercial workshop than in the workshop attached to an academical institution."\*

There is a semi-agricultural school at Sābang, which was started with eight pupils in 1903-04. It is not a flourishing institution, for, though scholarships have been sanctioned by Government in order to attract pupils, it has only five pupils on the rolls. At the Kharagpur Workshops of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway there is a technical night school, started in 1906, at which attendance for apprentices is compulsory. The subjects taught are geometry, applied mechanics, algebra, mensuration, geometrical drawing and arithmetic.

#### TRAINING SCHOOLS.

Eight Government schools have been opened for the training of *gurus* or primary school teachers, and there were 131 *gurus* on the rolls in 1908-09. Under this head may be mentioned a training

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\* *Technical and Industrial Instruction in Bengal, 1908, page 18.*

school at Binpur under the management of the American Baptist Mission, the pupils of which are generally employed as teachers in the Mission schools among the Santāls. At this school 106 male and 61 female pupils were under instruction during 1908-09.

There is one *madrasa* situated at Patāspur with 65 pupils, OTHER SCHOOLS. 9 *maktabs* for girls, and 142 *maktabs* for boys with 3,864 pupils. There are also a number of Sanskrit schools, which, like the *maktabs*, have adopted the standard prescribed by the Education Department.

There were at the close of 1908-09 altogether 6,786 Muham- EDUCATION OF MUHAMMADANS madan pupils under instruction in institutions of all classes, or 42 per cent. of the number of Muhammadan boys of school-going age. As the ratio for boys of all creeds was 53·8 per cent. in the same year, it is apparent that in Midnapore the Muhammadans are more backward than their Hindu neighbours, though special efforts have been made of late years to encourage them by granting subsidies to *maktabs*.

For the education of aboriginals, and in particular of the Santāls, 59 Primary schools have been started, besides the training school at Binpur. The total number of aboriginal pupils at these schools was 2,784 at the close of 1908-09. For their upkeep Government contributes an amount equal to that paid by the Missions which maintain them. Two *guru* instructors are entertained by the latter to supervise the education of aboriginal pupils in the Primary schools under them; and recently an inspecting officer with a knowledge of the Santālī language has been appointed by Government to supervise the Santālī schools in this district and the districts of Birbhūm and Bānkurā. EDUCATION OF SANTALS.

As regards the steps taken to diffuse education among the Santāls the Deputy Inspector of Schools writes:—"Their peculiar habits, conservative nature and almost complete isolation from advanced neighbouring races, and, above all, the absence of any written language in their mother-tongue, stand a great deal in the way of the educational progress of the Santāls. The initial difficulties in the way of introducing education among them have, to a certain extent, been overcome by the strenuous efforts of the missionaries, who have spent large sums not only in maintaining schools for their education, but also in providing house accommodation and free boarding to a large number of pupils in the institutions under their charge."

## CHAPTER XV.

## GAZETTEER.

**Anandapur.**—A village in the Keshpur thāna of the Midnapore subdivision, situated  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Gadāpiāsāl railway station and 3 miles west of Keshpur. The village formerly had a considerable tussar silk-weaving industry and was the headquarters of several rich merchants:—it is said, indeed, to have been larger even than Midnapore. During the Chuār rebellion of 1799 it was twice looted and finally burnt down by the rebels. At Kānasol, one mile to the south, there is a temple of Jhāreswar (Śiva), which is visited by a large number of people during the Uharak Pūjā at the end of Chait.

**Bāgri Pargana.**—(A *pargana* in the extreme north of the district, with an area of 444 square miles.) It was formerly held by a line of Rājās, who were usually feudatories of the Rājās of Mallabhūm (Bishnupur), but sometimes became powerful enough to assert their independence. The traditional account of this line is as follows.

The founder of the line was Gajapati Singh, of whom the following legend is told. His parents came from Northern India on a pilgrimage to Jagannāth, and on their way back both died of small-pox at the house of a poor Brāhman in Bakadwip, as Bāgri was called. The Brāhman took charge of Gajapati, and supported him till he grew old enough to look after the Brāhman's cows. One day, when the boy had not returned at the usual hour, the Brāhman went out to seek him. He found the boy sleeping under an *auch* tree, his face shaded from the sun by a hooded snake. When the Brāhman drew near, the snake glided quietly away. Astonished at the omen, which indicated that the boy was born to greatness, the Brāhman released him from the menial tasks he had hitherto imposed upon him. The rumour spread that Gajapati Singh would become a Rājā, and this soon proved true. At the age of 16 he conquered the whole of Bakadwip, and in 1165 A.D. made Bāgri his capital.

Gajapati was known by the name of Auch Singh, apparently from the fact that the tree under which he was miraculously protected by the snake was an *auch* tree; the descendants of his successors still pride themselves on being members of the Auch family. Gajapati Singh built a temple of Siva, and dug twelve tanks and a well at Dihi Bāgri. He is said to have died, at the age of 73, in 1222 A.D. He divided his Rāj between two sons, viz., Dhanapati Singh, who ruled at Garhbetā, and Ganapati Singh, who ruled at Goāltor, south-west of Bāgri. The latter dying without issue, the whole Rāj again came into the hands of one ruler. Dhanapati Singh was succeeded by his son Hamir Singh, and the latter by his son Raghunāth Singh, who was a powerful ruler. He conquered a portion of the Jungle Mahāls comprising Simlāpāl, Rāmgarh, Lālgarh, Rāipur, Tunghbūm and Ambikānagar; and carried his arms as far south as Maynā in Sabang, defeating the Rājā of that place in 1322 A.D. He built two temples at Goāltor, one of which was dedicated to the snake goddess Sanat Kumārī, and the temple of Lālji in Ohandrakonā.

Raghunāth Singh was succeeded after a long reign by Chittra Singh, to whom the ruin of the family is ascribed. Weary of his oppression, his subjects appealed to the Bishnupur Rājā, who conquered Bāgri and put an end to the rule of the original Auch line, though subsequent Rājās preserved the name. The Bishnupur Rājās endeavoured to govern Bāgri by deputies for seven years. In 1341 A.D. a Rājput, called Chauhān Singh, ousted their deputy and then accepted the position himself. Before long he made himself a quasi-independent ruler, though the Mallabhūm Rājās appear to have retained at least a nominal sovereignty. Chauhān built a fort round the temple of the goddess Sarbamangalā and died, at an advanced age, after a rule of 55 years.

There is some confusion concerning Chauhān Singh's successor, who was admittedly a dissolute and weak ruler. One account calls him Chattra Singh, but a more reliable account represents Chauhān's son, Auch Singh, as dying without issue, and states that Chattra Singh was a descendant of Chauhān, who was governor of Ohandrakonā and became Rājā of Garhbetā. Chattra Singh was succeeded by his son Tilak Ohandra, and he again by his son Tej Ohandra Singh. The latter built a palace at Rāyakot, erected a gunpowder magazine on the bank of the Bārud Khānā tank at Garhbetā, and repaired the fortifications of the place. The Rājā of Bishnupur now again attacked Garhbetā, and having overthrown Tej Ohandra, installed his own son

Durjan Singh as ruler. Durjan Singh was succeeded by Khaira Malla, a cruel and unpopular ruler, who was dethroned and slain with the aid of an army from Mayūrbhanj led by Sham Sher Bahādur, with whom legends pass into definite history.

Sham Sher built a residence at Mangalāpatā, where the family still reside, and was succeeded by his son Baishnab Chandra Singh. The latter was succeeded by his son Jādab Chandra Singh or Sen, who was the last of the independent rulers of Bāgri, for, during his time, it became a tributary of the Burdwān Rāj, before which the power of Bishnupur waned. Jādab Chandra resisted the endeavours of the Burdwān Rājā to bring him to subjection, and for many years his territory was governed by *naibs*, who remitted the revenue to Burdwān. A rebellion occurred about 1785, in which Jādab Chandra was supposed to be implicated; and he was seized and carried off to Calcutta where he died about 1790. His son Chattra Sen was formally dispossessed of the zamindāri some years later and given a pension of Rs. 500, his grandson receiving Rs. 250 at his death.

Bāgri is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari* as a *mahāl* of Sarkār Jaleswar. Its zamindār was a Rājput, and being extremely jungly, it was assessed to a revenue of only 39,428 *dams* (Rs. 985). Its inclusion in Sarkār Jaleswar shows that it had been brought under subjection by the Oriyās. In the settlement of Prince Shāh Shuja (1658 A.D.), it appears as part of Sarkār Goālpārā. After the settlement of 1728 A.D., and (before the British occupation in 1760, a portion of the *pargana* had passed into the hands of the Burdwān Rāj and bore an assessment of Rs. 7,001 out of a total assessment of Rs. 24,283. Another portion, *taraf* Bela, was in the direct possession of the Bāgri Rājā, but was confiscated by Government for his alleged complicity in the rebellion of the Chuārs in 1816-17. The Burdwān Rājā having defaulted for his share of the estate, it passed by auction sale into the hands of Sambhu Chandra Mukhārji and others, who let it out in *patti* to Meers. Watson & Co. (subsequently merged in the Midnapore Zamindāri Company.)

Bālighāi—See Egrā.

Balrāmpur.—A *pargana* of the Jungle Mahāls with an area of 68 square miles.) According to tradition, it belonged originally to a Khairā Rājā, who was murdered by three of his officers, and Balrāmpur fell to his *Gark Sardār*. (During the early days of British administration (1777-78 A.D.), it formed part of the zamindāri of Kārijorā. The zamindār defaulted, and, at the time of the Decennial Settlement, the *pargana* was settled with one Bīr Prasad Das, the Sadr Chaudhri, or chief collecting officer

of the district. He died, leaving no son, and disputes arose between his two wives, which led to the sale of the property in 1837. Government purchased the estate, and a settlement was made under Regulation VII of 1822.)

Various stories are told of Bīr Prasād Chaudhri, who is said to have been a great sportsman and to have kept his Balrāmpur estate as a preserve for game (*shikārgāh*). One story relates how as a punishment for the abduction of a lady of rank in Midnapore town, the Chaudhri was sentenced to corporal punishment of thirty stripes; and that the man who had to inflict it received from him a reward of ten *bighas* of rent-free land for every stripe inflicted, making 300 *bighas*, or 100 acres in all, in consideration of his laying on the stripes so lightly as to cause no pain, while the sound of the blow was such as to make it appear that it was given with full force. This grant of land was resumed by the Government at the time of the settlement (about 1840), and settled with the rent-free holder at half-rates. The Balrāmpur estate is now under resettlement.

**Bārdā.**—A *pargana* in the Ghātal subdivision lying east of Chandrakonā, with an area of 82½ square miles.) It is not mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and first came into prominence in 1696, when its zamindār Subhā Singh revolted, as mentioned in Chapter II, and killed Kishen Rām of Burdwan. According to tradition, Subhā Singh built the *dargāh* of Hazrat Ismail at Madāran to commemorate this success. (Subsequently, before the British inaugurated their rule, Jahānābād with *tappā* Bārdā became part of the extensive territory that formed the Burdwan Raj. The Burdwan Raj having defaulted in payment of land revenue for the estate, it was sold up and passed into other hands. Among the present zamindārs are the Gosain family of Serampore.) From the description of Bārdā as a *tappā* of Jahānābād, it would appear that in the time of Akbar it was included in the large *mahāl* of Haveli Madāran. In Valentijn's map "Barada" appears as a large village on a branch of the Dāmodar falling into the Rūpnārāyan; it is also shown in Rennell's Atlas.

**Belāberia.**—A jungle estate owned for many generations by a family known as the Praharāj family, the traditions of which are as follows. Its founder was one Nimai Chānd, who was one of the counsellors of Pratāparudra Deva, the Hindu king of Oriasa. At the time of Kālāpāhār's invasion, Nimai Chānd fled to the north in obedience to a dream and came to Sansāra Malla, the Rājā of Mallabhum. One day he was asked by Sansāra Malla to eat with him. As he had to sit in the sun, Sansāra offered him an umbrella and asked him his destination. Nimai Chānd, remembering



his dream, enquired where he should put the umbrella, which, he said, the Rājā had so generously given him. The Rājā understood the drift of the Brāhman's question, and ordered him to ride as far as he could within a *prahar* (three hours). Nimāi Chānd thereupon started from the village of Pathrā and rode as far as Jāhārpur; and the Rājā bestowed on him the whole of the intervening space. As the country mostly consisted of the sandy land along the Subarnarekhā and Dalang rivers, it was called Belāberīā; and the circuit having been made within a *prahar*, Nimāi Chānd was given the title of Praharāj. This is the legend, but the title is not uncommon among Oriyā Brāhmins, and Bayley calls the family "Buia".

Nimāi Chānd made his authority recognized in the territory so granted, and, after him, eight of his line ruled. The ninth Praharāj was Gobardhan, who was held in high esteem for his charity. He opened a *dharmaśālā*, built several temples, and dug many tanks. Of his descendants there is nothing of interest to relate till we come to the fourteenth Praharāj, Gobind Rām, who was famous for his military prowess and saved his zamindāri from the attacks of the Marāthās. In his time a neighbouring zamindar, named Madhu Kar, joined the Marāthās in an attack on Belāberīā, but he was defeated by Gobind Rām and his zamindāri annexed to that of Belāberīā. (Gobind Rām died in 1781, and the most notable of his successors was the eighteenth Praharāj, Jagannāth Dās, who was given the title of *Chaudhri* in recognition of his public spirit and munificence during the famine of 1866.

The present proprietor is Krishna Chandra Praharāj, the twenty-first Praharāj. The rent-roll of the estate is reported to be Rs. 40,000 and its area is about 20 square miles.)

**Birkul.**—(A village in the extreme south-west of the Contāi subdivision, situated on the sea coast, 26 miles south-west of Contāi.) It appears as Noricool in the map of Valentijn (1664 A.D.) and the chart of Thomas Bowrey (1688 A.D.). In the pilot chart of 1703, the village is not shown, but a small stream in the same locality is named R. Bitecool. It is entered in Rennell's Atlas. (In the early settlement records of the British, it gave its name to a salt *pargana*, (Beercool) belonging to Chakla Jaleswar, *Sarkār* Majkuri, which was subsequently attached to the Hijili Division; the Rājā of Mayūrbhanj put in a claim to the Birkul estate, which was rejected.\* The *pargana* has an area of 35 square miles. )



In the 18th century Birkul was a seaside resort for Europeans and contained a bungalow, said to have been used by Warren Hastings, which was washed away by the sea many years ago. The Public Works Department has since erected an inspection bungalow, a quarter of a mile further inland, at a place named Dighā on a sand ridge facing the Bay of Bengal. Birkul is described as follows by Sydney Grier in the *Letters of Warren Hastings to his wife* :—“Beercool was the sanatorium—the Brighton—of Calcutta, and the newspapers and Council records mention constantly that So-and-So is ‘gone to Beercool for his health’. Coursing, deer-stalking, hunting and fishing are mentioned as being obtainable in the neighbourhood, and in May of this year (1718) the ‘Bengal Gazette’ gives publicity to a scheme for developing the place quite in the modern style. It has already the advantage of a beach which provides perhaps the best road in the world for carriages and is totally free from all noxious animals except crabs, and there is a proposal to erect convenient apartments for the reception of nobility and gentry, and organize entertainments.” The scheme appears to have been only partially carried out, for in 1796 Charles Chapman wrote :—“We passed part of the last Hot Season at Beercool, to which place I believe you and Messrs. Hastings once projected an Excursion. The Terrace of the Bungalow, intended for you, is still pointed out by the People, but that is all that remains of it. The Beach is certainly the finest in the World, and the Air such as to preclude any Inconvenience being felt from the Heat. Mrs. Chapman found the Bathing agree with her so well, that, if here and alive next year, we shall make another Trip.”

In 1852 Bayley described it as having a delicious sea breeze in the summer. “But fresh water is not to be got within four miles; and even that is not very fresh; and the sand-hills moreover have lately been cut away by the sea, and, of the three bungalows upon them, two are gone, and one all but gone.”

**Birsingh.**—A village in the Ghātal subdivision. It is the birth place of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyāsāgar, Principal of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, and founder of the Metropolitan Institution (the first unaided college in India that was started by an Indian), who was well known as a Hindu social reformer.

**Brāhmanbhūm Pargana.**—A *pargana* in the north of the district, with an area of 98 square miles, which is so called because it was held by an old family of Brāhmanas. According to their records, the principality of Brāhmanbhūm was founded in Saka

772 (850 A.D.) by Umāpati Deb Bhattachārji, who immigrated from Rishighhatta on the bank of the Ganges. He was, as usual in such traditions, going to the shrine of Jagannāth and was stopped on the way by a dream in which he was informed that there was no need for him to go to Puri, as the real god would be found hidden underground at a spot where milk flowed spontaneously from a milch-cow and moistened the earth. He discovered the spot, and digging down found the idol (linga). On this spot he established the shrine of Kāmeswar and then proceeded to clear the jungle, and found a kingdom. According to a tradition current in Chandrakonā, one of the successors of Chandraketu wrested the land from the hands of an aboriginal chief and made it over to the priest of Kāmeswar. The archives give the names of twenty of his successors until the Rāj ended in 1761 A.D. The existence of the Rāj is also proved by the mention of some of the Rājās in the poem *Chandi* of Mukundaram Kavikankan (c. 1600), who, flying from his home in Burdwān, took refuge with Raghunāth Rai, son of Rājā Bankuda Rai, at Arādā, 4 miles from Chandrakonā. This *pargana* was ultimately absorbed by the Burdwān Rāj, and appears in the early British settlement of 1771 with a rent-roll of Rs. 35,910.

**Chāndpur.**—A village in the south-east of the Contāi subdivision, situated on the sea-coast 14 miles south-south-west of Contāi. The place lies above flood-level, and is said to be suitable for the purposes of a sanatorium. It is situated a short distance inland and possesses a fine turf lawn, half-a-mile long by 300 yards broad, on almost any part of which excellent fresh water can be got by digging. The sea is visible from this raised lawn, below which, and within 300 yards of it, is a beach of firm hard sand, stretching for miles on either side. Water-carriage is available almost to the very spot, and during the hot summer months there is a delightfully cool sea breeze, day and night.

**Chandrakonā.**—A village in the Ghātāl subdivision, situated 11 miles east of the Chandrakonā Road station and 28 miles north-east of Midnapore. It contains a police-station, a dispensary and a District Board bungalow.

The town extends over a fairly large area (about 6 square miles), and is built on the laterite soil that forms the eastern edge of the Bāgri laterite tableland and slopes down on the east to the kankariferous bed of the Bānkā *ahas* Silāi river. Gaunt trees and thorny plants abound, while water is not easily available, except at depths of 12 to 20 feet. The houses are usually made of a very stiff clay, the detritus of laterite; this clay is so hard that double-storied houses (*maida* or *kusti bari*) are not infrequently

made of it. The drainage is also good, the slope being towards the east. In spite of these natural advantages, the town does not present a prosperous appearance. Its population is small, and many houses are in ruins, while others are dilapidated, lying in scattered groups separated by patches of open ground. Malaria is endemic, and the people generally have a sickly appearance. The special manufactures of the place are cloth-weaving and the manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils.

In the palmy days of Chandrakona, the town was divided into many bazars, such as Bhāyer Bazar, Khirki Bazar, Bara Bazar, Nutan Bazar, Samādhi Bazar, the names of which have survived, though the markets have more or less disappeared. The former importance of the place is shown by several remains and old institutions, among which may be mentioned three *asthāls*, three forts and a group of temples kept up by the Burdwān Rāj. The three forts, which are called Lālgarh, Rāmgarh and Raghunāthgarh, are in utter ruin, and no description of them is required. The *asthāls* are monastic and charitable institutions maintained by endowments of land and managed by *mahants* or abbots. All three have up-country *mahants*, the most influential of whom, Bharath Rāmanuja Das, is Chairman of the municipality.

Among the temples maintained by the Burdwān Rāj the following may be mentioned. The Lālji temple, which stands on a high plinth, is of the Bengali style of architecture. In its verandah is preserved a stone slab (lying loose) with an inscription in Bengali characters, dated 1577 Saka (1655 A.D.), recording the erection of a Navaratna temple of Krishna by Rāni Lakshmanāvati, wife of Rājā Hari Nārāyan. In front of the Lālji temple is a *nātmandir* or dancing hall, to the west of which stands an Orissan tower with a porch in front dedicated to Raghunāthji. The outer yard is separated from the inner by a wall, and contains a small Pancharatna temple of Kāmeśwar Siva with an inscription dated 1577 Saka; to its south-west lies a circular pavement for the *rāsmancha*. The whole is enclosed by a high wall, with a large gateway to the east; over the gateway is a slab with a Bengali inscription ascribing the erection of the *thākurbāri* to the Burdwān Rāj in 1238 B.S. (1831 A.D.). In front of the gateway are two cars, which are drawn on the Dasaharā day, the smaller being that of Lālji and the larger that of Raghunāthji. The cost of the establishment and of the festivals is met from the income of a *debottar* estate set apart for the purpose by the Burdwān Rāj.

The temple of Malleswar, two miles from the police-station, also belongs to the Burdwān Rāj. It is nearly 60 feet high and was built by Rāja Kirtti Chandra of Burdwān in the first quarter of the 18th century; but the shrine is said to be much older, being ascribed to Khaira Malla, the last Malla king of this tract. In the floor inside is a hollow about 2½ feet deep, the upper edge being built of masonry, while the basin is made up of laterite slabs. The slabs have two openings or crevices, through which water flows, apparently from a spring or springs, and, it is said, fills the hollows on particular nights. This has been observed in other sacred places; for example, in the temple of Loknāth at Puri, where the basin in which the *linga* stands is filled with water, except on the Sivarātri day, when it is baled out and the *linga* exposed.

According to tradition, Chandrakonā was formerly called Mānā and was held in the eighth century A.D. by a Rāja named Khaira Malla, a name which also appears in the Bāgri annals. During his reign a Rājput prince named Chandraketu, while on his way from Puri, encamped in the jungle of Debgiri near Chandrakonā. In old heroic fashion he challenged the Rāja to battle, defeated him and assumed his sceptre, naming the town after himself. After consolidating his power, he sent a missive of war to the neighbouring Rāja of Jārā, who cheerfully accepted the challenge and went forth to battle. He signally defeated Chandraketu and returned in triumph, but he found his city in mourning, for a false report of his death had preceded him through two favourite pigeons flying home, and his wives had perished on the funeral pyre. In despair he slew himself, and Chandraketu found himself without a rival.

Now in the adjacent kingdom of Bakadwip (Bāgri) there ruled a Rākshasa prince, named Bakāsura, who exacted as tribute from his subjects daily contributions of human flesh. At this time the Pāndava brothers sought shelter in the house of a friendly Brāhman in the dense forests of Bakadwip. Bhīma, stirred to anger by the recital of such enormities, slew the Rākshasa monster and presented his territory to Chandraketu, who presumably lent his aid to the enterprise. The latter built the forts of Lalgarh and Rāmgarh, appointing his two generals Lal Singh and Rām Singh as their wardens. These generals established in their respective forts the idols of Lalji and Raghunāthji; the Rāja himself consecrated the idol of Muralī-bhāri (Krishna) in Hambir fort; while his minister Gangārām established the idol Madanmohan in Shāmsundarpur. Chandraketu